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Front & Back Covers – Eastern Kingbird nest, Irondequoit Creek, *Monroe*, 4 Jul 2012,
© Jim Adams.

SAMPLING THE 2012 FALL MIGRATION OF NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS

**John L. Confer, Robert McGuire,
Andrew Myers, and Julia Gillis**

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Most Northern Saw-whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) nest in mixed deciduous/conifer forests across Canada (Rasmussen et al. 2008) although they are widely distributed in the northeastern U.S., with New York having possible to confirmed breeding in 129 of 5,333 Atlas blocks (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Hundreds of thousands migrate out of their breeding grounds and pass through the northeastern U.S. into the Appalachians and the coastal Southeast, their primary winter grounds. Despite moderate abundance during migration and in winter, saw-whets are rarely heard and seldom seen. Fortunately, saw-whets respond to an audio lure (Erdman and Brinker 1997) and can be caught in mist nets and then banded. Data from the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory (D. Bystrak) show that about 11,000 are banded every fall and about 1% of the captured birds have already been banded. The number caught varies greatly from year to year. This article describes the fall 2012 migration, one of the larger movements in several decades.

Inspired by Valerie Freer's presentation at a NYSOA meeting in 2010 in Syracuse, Confer initiated a trial banding effort and caught 17 saw-whets on his property 10 miles southeast of Ithaca, NY. In 2011, 29 birds were captured. The first indication of this year's migration came from central Ontario. Bruce Murphy reported banding record numbers of saw-whets early in the migration season, including an extremely high proportion of hatch year (HY) birds. Buoyed by this news, over a dozen volunteers assisted our Hammond Hill Owl Site (HHOWLS) and we opened our nets on 25 September to a very large migration.

Two 120' net lines were erected approximately 300' apart. The setting was second-growth hardwoods with a few conifers and scattered pockets of brush. Because of vandalism early in the season, we were forced to remove the nets and poles each night and reset them the next evening. The nets were opened one half hour after sunset and closed around midnight. As with almost all saw-whet banders, we used an audio lure to attract birds into the net. We used a FoxPro NX3 to play the saw-whet advertising call (10 seconds on, 5 seconds off) at both sets of nets.

Extracting an owl from the net required time and a delicate touch while working with a headlamp. As much as possible, we avoided shining the light in the owl's eyes to minimize night-blindness upon release. Most owls lying in the net seemed calm. The 1 1/4 inch mesh size was just sufficient to allow the bird's head to pass through, but their wings were often tangled, and their talons usually gripped a footfull of threads. Usually we started by grasping the legs and teasing

the threads from its clenched fist, then we freed any portion of a wing that may have penetrated the net and then slowly worked the threads over the head, being careful not to damage the ears or tear out any feathers. Freed from the net, the birds were taken in a carry-box to the banding shed. Net checks were started at 45 minute intervals.

Each owl had a #4-short aluminum band placed on its right leg, a process requiring three hands: one to hold the bird, one to hold the leg, and one to crimp the band with special pliers. Often during this operation the bird would test its agility by trying to sink a couple of needle-sharp talons into the bander. We recorded the bird's wing chords and weight (bird upside down in an orange juice can on the scale). Females are generally larger than males and the sex can be determined for most birds by its weight and wing chord length (Brinker, D. F. 2000). The entire process of banding, measuring, and recording took about ten minutes per bird, depending on how many times the bird managed to get its talons into someone's finger.

It is possible, as with many other birds, to determine the age of an individual owl from molt patterns under traditional visible light. A more easily visualized technique involves organic compounds called porphyrins that occur in 13 avian Orders (Weidensaul et al 2011). The word porphyrin comes from a Greek word for *purple*—an appropriate etymology considering that the compound fluoresces a brilliant magenta under ultraviolet light. In owls, the porphyrins are most conspicuous in the underside of owl flight feathers. As feathers age, the porphyrins degrade and fluoresce less strongly. To age the birds, we gently opened each bird's wing under a black light while shading the eyes and examined the color pattern. A fluorescent pink glow throughout the primaries and secondaries indicated a HY bird. As with many owls, saw-whets do not molt all flight feathers every year. Other patterns of glow/no-glow were compared to reference photos to determine second-year (see image p. 326) and after second-year birds.

Avian mist-netting inherently exposes birds to some risk of stress, injury, or mortality (Recher et al. 1985). The small Northern Saw-whet Owl, which is eaten by every larger owl (Rasmussen et al. 2008), is especially vulnerable. For this reason, saw-whet banders take special precautions. Frequent net checks minimize the stress on owls and their vulnerability to predation. In 2011, a dead owl was found in a net next to a live Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*). Presumably the screech owl entangled itself while attacking the saw-whet. We banded this screech owl and released it a mile away to avoid a repeat experience. No known predation on a saw-whet occurred during the rest of 2011, nor during 2012. However, early in the 2012 season we heard a screech owl as we opened the nets. We switched the audio lure to screech owl playback and captured two screech owls during a single net check. One was a recapture of the owl banded and relocated in 2011. Both screech owls were released a few miles away and screech owls were not seen or heard again.

At the start of the season, owls were released by placing them on a fence rail facing a lawn. In most cases they took flight shortly and disappeared into the night. Occasionally a bird would sit for a few minutes while it collected itself

before flying off. Late in the fall of 2012 we released a saw-whet owl and witnessed another owl, almost certainly a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), attempt to capture the saw-whet in flight. The saw-whet evaded capture and flew off into the forest with the larger owl in pursuit. We immediately suspended banding for the night to ensure the safety of the saw-whets. During the following week we reopened the nets and played a Barred Owl advertising call. Because we neither captured nor heard a Barred Owl during 3.5 hours of playback, we decided that the owl might be only an occasional visitor at the banding site and resumed saw-whet banding. Following the advice of other owl banders contacted at "sawwhetnet," we began releasing owls into dense shrubbery rather than into an open area and decided to immediately discontinue saw-whet owl banding if we heard a nearby, larger owl. Fortunately, we had no other experiences with Screech or Barred owls during the remainder of the season.

A cold front on 16 October brought an extraordinary event to HHOWLS. Our first net check was unsuccessful, as was typical, although we did hear a Barred Owl gave a single, distant call that set us all on edge. Thus it was with slight apprehension that we conducted the second net check around 8:45 pm. To our relief we caught four saw-whets with no evidence of a larger owl. Our next check produced nine owls and nearly filled our carry-boxes. After processing, it was immediately time to check the nets once more, and this time we came back with two full boxes and two in the hand for a total of 12 owls. With 12 birds in hand, a variety of saw-whet owl vocalizations filled the darkness outside our head lamp beam, along with two coyote packs talking to each other and a distant calling Barred Owl. One bander watched an owl fly past her head and into the net, trampoline out, and fly into a nearby shrub. The bander turned her head with a headlamp, temporarily blinding the bird, and picked it up by hand. This was our peak capture as the winds began to blow from the east and migration came to a halt around 1:30 am. In all, we caught 36 saw-whets on that night, more than the total for the previous year.

Irruption abundance of saw-whets is likely due to a high proportion of HY birds (Rasmussen et al. 2008). An unusual preponderance of HY birds reflects very high nesting success and, probably, high abundance of small mammals in the breeding region. This year at HHOWLS, HY birds comprised 85% of the total number caught and a striking 90% of the birds during the first half of the season. There must have been a lot of voles during the saw-whet breeding season in northeastern Ontario and adjacent Quebec, the primary region providing migrants for HHOWLS.

The irruptive movement we observed occurred over much of eastern North America. Kate Duffy reported that banding near Cape May, near the southern end of migration for owls passing through our region, caught the fourth highest number in 32 years, 192 birds with 86% of them HY. Simon Duval of McGill Bird Observatory (<http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo.html>) near Montreal, QC reported by far their largest number ever with 90% HY birds, and Valerie Freer in Ulster County, NY reported her best numbers in five years with 66% HY birds, higher than average for her station, although lower than at other banding stations.

Recaptures of banded birds provide much information about saw-whet migration (Beckett and Proudfoot 2011). HHOWLS has shared in seven recaptures of birds banded at one site and recaptured elsewhere. In 2010, one of our birds was recaptured that fall in Virginia. In the same year, HHOWLS recaptured a saw-whet that had been banded in spring 2009 at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory on the southeastern shore of Lake Superior. That bird had survived two breeding seasons and was in its second fall migration since being banded. It was about 525 miles southeast of Whitefish Point. In 2011, we banded a bird that was recaptured this fall near Lock Haven, PA, ~ 120 miles southwest from HHOWLS. This fall we caught four banded birds. We have learned that one was banded at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, near Rochester, NY (BBBO) and moved a straight line distance of ~ 95 miles in 16 days at a compass direction of 131°. Another came from Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) on the north shore of Lake Ontario and had moved a net distance of ~110 miles in four days at a direction of 165°.

In 60 years the senior author has had many great birding experiences. But thanks to Northern Saw-whet Owls and all the volunteers, especially my wife, banding Northern Saw-whet Owls this fall migration was the best of all.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Banding assistants included Sue and Charlie Carpenter, Kendra Carter, Karen Confer, Robert Horn, Melissa Groo, Lee Ann van Leer, Michaela Myers, Sandy and Lisa Podulka, Bob and Karen Schneider, Mark Witman and, particularly, the co-authors.

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
65TH ANNUAL MEETING, OWEGO, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

The 65th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held at the Treadway Inn in Owego, NY on September 29, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 28 delegates from 19 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. Shai Mitra made a motion to approve the September 24, 2011 Annual Meeting minutes as published in the December 2011 issue of *The Kingbird*. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President's Report by Gail Kirch:

Gail thanked Tim Baird for his nine years of service as Editor of *New York Birders*. Tim is retiring from this role, and NYSOA is in need of a new editor for the newsletter. Gail highlighted the active work of the Conservation Committee. She announced that the NYS Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) is working hard and suggested members check the website for accepted records. Gail thanked Jeanne Skelly for her years of service as the NYSARC secretary, and announced that Gary Chapin is the new NYSARC secretary. Gail informed members that the NYS Young Birders Club is doing well under Carena Pooth's guidance. She thanked Kathy Schneider for organizing field trips and presentations around New York State. Finding hosts for annual meetings can be challenging, and a host club for 2013 is still needed. Cayuga Bird Club has volunteered to host the 2014 meeting. Thanks to Robert Schumann's generosity, the NYSOA Board has utilized his facility, Nuthatch Hollow, in Vestal, as a meeting place for many years. Mr. Schumann passed away this year, and left his facility to SUNY Binghamton. NYSOA hopes to continue holding some of the board meetings at this facility.

Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason:

Andy provided the Treasurer's Report for January 1 through September 29, 2012. He also provided the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity for the following dates: September 30, 2011, December 31, 2011, June 30, 2012, and September 28, 2012. Andy encouraged members to renew at a higher level, since most income comes from memberships.

NYSOA Committee Reports and Elections:

Joan Collins gave the **Nominating Committee Report**. The committee nominated the following 2012-2013 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Gail Kirch – President
Kathy Schneider – Vice President
Janet Allison – Recording Secretary
Andy Mason – Treasurer
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Seth Ausubel – Director (2013)
Mary Beth Warburton – Director (2013)
Joan Collins – Director (2014)
Mike DeSha – Director (2014)
Kevin Griffith – Director (2014)
Shai Mitra – Director (2014)
Bill Ostrander – Director (2014)

Jerry Lazarczyk made a motion to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Gail Kirch announced the following names for election to the 2012-2013 **Nominating Committee**: Andy Mason (Chair), Bob Adamo, and Kevin Griffith. Shai Mitra made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Gail Kirch announced the following names for election to the 2012-2013 **Auditing Committee**: John Cairns (Chair), Peter Capainolo, and Irving Cantor. Kathy Schneider made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Shai Mitra seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Gordon Batcheller

Gordon informed everyone that his group is holding regular meetings with the NYSOA Conservation Committee. DEC resources continue to be stretched. They have wildlife money but cannot use the funds (at the same time that their employees are being laid off). Ten million dollars in federal aid is available for hunting programs, but it is also under spending restrictions. Public pressure could help the DEC address this problem. The number of deer hunters is declining. DEC has a program to encourage young people to hunt deer. The DEC is also encouraging hunters to use alternatives to lead ammunition. Gordon has been writing articles to encourage hunters to use these alternatives. The DEC has successful programs for helping endangered birds. Gordon answered questions from the group.

There was no **Auditing Committee Report**.

Linda Clark Benedict gave the **Archives Committee Report**. Linda added a finding key for information in the archives. She is writing up a procedure for the Organizational Handbook to document the archivist's tasks.

Gail Kirch gave the **Awards Committee Report**. The following awards were presented:

Kathy Schneider presented the **Gordon Meade Distinguished Service Award**

to Carena Pooth for her many years of service. Carena served as Director, Vice President, and President, but her contributions far exceed the job duties of these positions.

Carena was instrumental in developing the framework that has allowed NYSOA to support and nurture the New York State Young Birder's Club. She worked with the club to develop a set of bylaws and a job description for an adult coordinator. She researched liability issues for field trips and developed a workable procedure that allows the young birders to pursue their passion for birds all over New York State. Carena spearheaded the recruitment of partner organizations and supporting adults by designing a PowerPoint presentation that was used by directors to teach NYSOA member clubs about the group. She also created the Young Birders website, a powerful recruitment tool for this tech savvy generation.

NYSOA also credits Carena with bringing the organization into the electronic age. As a result of her efforts, nearly 60 years of *Kingbird* issues are available to anyone with an interest in the ornithology of New York State in a searchable on line archive. As the author and architect of the NYSOA website, she has made it easy for members to pay their dues on line, submit their county lists, and stay informed on bird related issues and activities. The member club listserv helps the board and committee chairs communicate with our partner organizations, and teleconferencing at board meetings is now the norm. NYSOA is proud to acknowledge Carena's dedication, leadership, and commitment to our organization.

Bob Spahn presented the **John J. Elliott Award** for the best *Kingbird* article of the year to Mark Manske for "*American Kestrel Nest Box Management Program in Northern New York State*".

Andy Mason gave the **Conservation Committee Report**. Andy introduced the Committee members and highlighted some of the year's activities. Comments were submitted on: the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for hydrofracking in NY; the NYS DEC Spruce Grouse recovery plan; the Montezuma National Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan; and the Galeville Park proposal at the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge. The Committee has continued participation in: the Enterprise Park at Calverton Coalition monitoring development proposals for this large grassland habitat in eastern Long Island; and the Plum Island Coalition and efforts to ensure that Plum Island off Long Island is protected rather than developed. The Committee regularly meets with the DEC. Recent discussions have focused on cormorant management, Spruce Grouse recovery plan, hydrofracking, and lead ammunition. The Committee continues to publish a quarterly conservation column in *New York Birders*. Andy encouraged members to bring conservation issues to the Committee.

Bob Spahn gave the **eBird Report**. *Kingbird* Regional Editors use the data from eBird to help write their quarterly reports. Bob encouraged members to use eBird to record their sightings.

There was no **Finance Committee Report**.

Kathy Schneider gave the **Marketing/Publicity/Field Trips Committee Report**. Field trips and presentations were held at Niagara in January and at Whiteface Mountain in July. NYSOA members receive preference in attending the field trips, but non-members are also encouraged to attend. The Committee is planning quarterly trips for the coming year.

Barbara Butler gave the **Membership Committee Report**. New memberships and renewals are sent to Berna Lincoln, and Barbara maintains the membership database. Barbara presented a document with the membership numbers. Individual memberships decreased slightly from last year. Member clubs declined from 44 to 38 clubs.

There was no **New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report**.

Carena Pooth gave the **New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report**. The club celebrated its fourth anniversary this year. There are currently 36 youth members, 22 supporting adults, and 18 partner clubs. Members are evenly distributed in age ranges from 10 to 19 years. The club mirrors the NYS population in distribution of members across the state. The young birders maintain a spreadsheet that keeps track of all species seen on every field trip dating back to 2008. Carena encouraged individuals to become Supporting Adult members of NYSYBC and asked those whose local clubs are not NYSYBC Partner Organizations to urge their boards to consider getting involved.

Tim Baird gave the **New York Birders Report**. Tim is retiring after nine years as Editor. The October 2012 issue will be his last. NYSOA is looking for a replacement.

Shai Mitra gave **The Kingbird Report**. Shai detailed the tasks of being Editor of *The Kingbird* for the NYSOA Handbook. Past printing issues have been resolved under the new printing company.

Victor Lamoureux gave the **Research Committee Report**. Victor responded to questions received via email over the past year.

Carena Pooth gave the **Website and Information Services Report**. Carena added the County Listing Project to the NYSOA website. 72% of 2011 reports were submitted via the online form. Reports are due by March 15 for the prior year. Every year, Carena adds four issues of *The Kingbird* to the searchable database. NYSARC reports are also added yearly. Carena maintains an online calendar of NYS Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) each year. She also maintains

the NYS Young Birders Club website.

Old Business:

A host club is needed for the 2013 Annual Meeting.

A Membership Chairperson is needed.

New Business:

A new Editor is needed for *New York Birders*.

Victor Lamoureux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Lazarczyk seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins
Recording Secretary



A POSSIBLE AMERICAN KESTREL DUMP NEST

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Several scenarios have been documented in which more than one individual bird lays eggs in the same nest during the same period. These include intra- and interspecific brood parasitism, as well as a variety of cases where the behavior's function is less easily characterized but may involve competition over nesting sites (Dawson and Bortolotti 1997) or a response to the threat of nest predation (Neilsen et al. 2008). For instance, Littlefield (1981) observed what was believed to be a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) dump nest; Cannell and Harrington (1984) observed intraspecific brood parasitism between Cliff Swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) and interspecific brood parasitism by a Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) on Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), and by a Great Egret (*Camerodius albus*) on a Black-crowned Night-Heron nest. Govoni et al. (2009) documented a Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) and an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) sharing a nest containing two cardinal eggs and three robin eggs. Examples of similar behaviors among raptors include a case where an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) incubated and fledged a Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) egg along with two of her own chicks (Dawson and Barolotti 1997); a case in which an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) hatched an American Kestrel egg (Breen and Parrish 1997); and a case documented via web-cam in which a Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) pirated an Eastern Screech-Owl nest and replaced the owl eggs with four Wood Duck eggs (Artuso 2007).

Since 2002, I have conducted a nest box management study involving American Kestrels on a 187,000-acre area in northern New York State, involving an average of 130 nest boxes annually (Manske 2011). During the study, there have been several cases where European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) eggs have been found in active kestrel nests. On some of these occasions there was enough evidence to determine that some of the eggs were laid in an active kestrel nest, but none of these nesting attempts produced fledglings.

On 24 June 2010, I checked a nest box and discovered three tiny chicks and two eggs, all identifiable as American Kestrels. The chicks were too small to band, so I left the area, planning to return after a few weeks. On 12 July, I returned to find four chicks which were approximately three weeks old and four brand-new kestrel eggs. The new eggs, which were very clean and shiny, appeared to have been recently laid and were positioned on top of the nest debris. I banded the chicks and felt the eggs to determine their relative temperature. The eggs felt very cold and did not appear as though they had been incubated recently. I returned to the nest on 18 July and found that the eggs were

beginning to be covered with fecal matter from the chicks and were partially buried in the nest box litter. The eggs still felt cold to the touch and appeared to have failed. On 24 July the eggs had been crushed and only egg fragments could be found in the nest debris. By 4 August the chicks had all fledged from the nest box and could be seen in the vicinity.

Bildstein (pers. comm.) believes that adult kestrels will linger near their nests in an attempt to discourage possible nest-dumping activities of other kestrels, as well as by other species. The advantage of dump nest behavior may be to dilute the affects of nest predation on a particular individual, but any advantage would be gained only if the eggs were laid in several nests. The average clutch size of nests found in my nest boxes is 3.6, so the number of additional eggs found in this nest box appears to have been a full clutch. Possibly the female laying the eggs was an inexperienced bird or her first nest was destroyed and this was her second clutch of the season.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SUMMER 2012

Robert Spahn

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As usual, a complex, potentially interesting, and typically under-reported season. This leaves us with lots of records covering parts of two migrations and the bulk of the breeding season, but with significant difficulty in analysis. This season many observers are away on vacation. Others are focused on research projects, the results of which are often inaccessible to the Regional editors by season's end, if at all. The data from few MAPS stations or BBS routes seem to make it to these summaries. We now have on the order of 300,000 eBird records for this season—many more for spring and fall. This is now 80% or more of the input for some Regions. However, working through the data is time consuming (see a note at the end of the Region 2 report introduction). Dave Wheeler, one of the new Region 5 editors, has developed a tool available to all Regional editors to help with this. On the bright side, looking at the data in various ways and trying to put it into historical perspective is one way to make the data gathering useful. The approach to this season will again be as late spring migration, the breeding season and summering birds, and the start of fall migration, with rarities added on at the end.

The Region 10 report was late enough and my schedule such that I must exercise my discretionary option as season highlights editor to overlook it in this report. Since the Region 10 report is usually very well written and the Region enough different from the rest of the State to be difficult to integrate into this summary anyway, I'll refer the reader to the Region 10 report for information from there this season.

WEATHER

This summer's weather is relatively easy to summarize. It was generally warm and dry over the whole State, reaching moderate drought conditions in some Regions. There were scattered, short cool periods and bursts of rainfall, especially in local afternoon thunderstorms, but no major weather events. Additional thoughts by Regional editors included likely good waterfowl and ground-nester production due to conditions, but with data lacking, in Region 6; low snowfall and the dry spring and summer translating to few berries and little mast as food in Region 7; and Bob Yunick noting low numbers of car-insect collisions as a measure of lack of insect prey in Region 8.

TAIL END OF SPRING MIGRATION

Early June always sees the last of the spring migrants. With the early warmth in March and an apparent shift to many early arrivals, one might expect some effects on the late end; but only a maybe so. There were still the usual late waterbirds, with Snow Geese in Regions 5, 6, & 7; Greater Scaup in Regions 2 & 5; Red-throated Loon in the Regions bordering Lake Ontario, plus Region 9; a few Common Loons in all Regions; and Horned Grebe in Regions 2 & 7. The tail end of the spring raptors included numbers of Bald Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks near Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, a very late Swainson's Hawk passing Derby Hill on 18 June, and a late Rough-legged Hawk in Wayne County in Region 2 on 11 June. At least 12 species of migrant shorebirds were reported in multiple Regions into June, with the more interesting being: 15 White-rumped Sandpipers in Region 1 to the second of June, three Dunlin to 10 June in Region 5, and Wilson's Phalarope in Regions 1 & 3. Among the gulls and terns, only Little Gull in Regions 1 & 7 and Common Tern to 21 June in Region 2 were somewhat unusual. Among the passerines, nearly all were the expected late migrants: Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; Swainson's Thrush, but no Gray-cheeked Thrush; nine species of warblers, with a record late Palm Warbler on 15 June in Region 2 the most unusual; White-throated Sparrow in Regions 1, 2, & 8 and White-crowned Sparrow in Regions 2 & 7; and surprising finches, with Red Crossbill in Region 8, 48 White-winged Crossbills on 6 June in Region 2, Pine Siskins lingering in five Regions, and Evening Grosbeak in June in Regions 6, 8, & 9.

BREEDING SEASON

Without an Atlas project to push many into the field, reporting is sparse. Still we do have quite a bit covered in the Regional reports. Among the waterfowl, Trumpeter Swan continues to spread as a breeder (or potential breeder), with a pair near Oak Orchard WMA all summer in Region 1, the usual nesting pairs in the Montezuma complex and nearby in Regions 2 & 3, four adults but no juveniles in Region 6, and a first confirmed breeding with five young fledged in Region 5 near Volney. Wood Duck and Pied-billed Grebe were good in several Regions each; a female Common Merganser was reported with a brood north of the Atlas limit in Region 2; but on the downside, little note of either Am. Black Duck or Blue-winged Teal, both species of concern. One of the best-reported groups is colonial waterbirds, with much detail, especially in the Region 1 & 6 reports. In summary: Double-crested Cormorant numbers were down a bit (possibly due to control efforts); Great Egret nest counts were up in Region 1, also with a summer high tally of 340 individuals feeding at the Iroquois NWR and birds reported in all other Regions; Black-crowned Night-Heron nest counts up in Regions 1 & 6; Ring-billed Gull counts flat and Herring Gull up since the previous five-year interval count; Caspian Terns record high in Region 6; and Common Tern record high in Region 1 and very high in Region 6. On the other

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hand, Black Terns seem to be just holding on in known breeding areas, with only a slight increase in wandering individuals seen on Lake Ontario. Additional counts or group summaries include: a Purple Martin study near the Iroquois NWR complex in Region 1; some good breeding warbler counts in Region 4; good notes on the Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler situation in Region 6; and pretty much bad news for grassland birds everywhere, but especially in one of their last strongholds in Region 6.

Beyond these studies and summaries, we can just wander through the checklist and pick up other breeding bird observations of interest. Black Vulture continues to increase, with behavior suggesting breeding imminent in Region 1. Among the raptors, N. Goshawk and Red-shouldered Hawk reports remain few, and breeding (or likely breeding) reports for Merlin and Peregrine Falcon stable. Sandhill Crane presence in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6 suggests more nesting imminent or occurring, though actual evidence is still confined to the Montezuma complex and very likely Region 2 north of Honeoye, where three cranes were seen from late summer on, but with no convincing photos or notes establishing the third as a young of the year. Common Nighthawk and E. Whip-poor-will appear to be concentrated in Regions 7, 8, & 9 and nearly absent in the western Regions during the breeding season. All Regions except Region 7 reported Red-headed Woodpecker, some with good numbers, such as Regions 1, 2, & 6. Potential breeding reports for White-eyed Vireo upstate are few, so one in Region 3 this summer is interesting. With Fish Crow we add a new location in Region 5 and multiple birds again all summer in Region 2, but no confirmation of nesting. There is an interesting story of a snake invading a Bank Swallow colony in Region 4. Nesting Sedge Wrens have become scarce, but we have two new locations in Region 1, though tempered by fewer sites in Region 6. Bicknell's Thrush is reported doing fairly well in Regions 7, 8, & 9. Among the warblers we find: Worm-eating Warbler in Regions 8 & 9; Prothonotary Warbler sites noted in Regions 1, adjacent areas in 2 & 3, & 5; seven reports of Kentucky Warbler; Yellow-throated warbler noted only in the usual breeding spot in Region 1; and only one July report of Yellow-breasted Chat in Region 1. Among the sparrows, we see Clay-colored Sparrow nesting in five Regions, Grasshopper Sparrow holding on all right in five Regions, but Henslow's Sparrow only in Region 6 and very few there. But here I can also illustrate the reporting problem alluded to earlier. Vesper Sparrow is flagged as one of the problem "grassland" species but is only noted at all in four Regional reports, with a maximum of 22 in Region 6. Yet I personally tallied 49 on a BBS route in Region 3 and over the past 37 years doing that route have averaged 30.1 ± 14.9 , with a maximum of 66 in 2007. So there are issues regarding forgetting to pass along route data at season's end, eBird entry as a major extra data entry process, comparisons requiring knowledge of area and time not always supplied, and decisions on what is interesting enough to include in individual Regional reports. We can end this section with a breeding rarity—several individuals seen and at least one pair of Dickcissels confirmed nesting in Region 3.

START OF FALL MIGRATION

Another messy picture, with at least some fuzziness in assigning arrival dates as fall migrants for birds that commonly breed. I currently remain of the opinion that, by noting locations and numbers, one can do this for most species in most Regions. Most Regional editors seem to concur. This fall by far the bulk of the data is for birds “detected” as migrants at typical dates and in typical numbers, as expected. The focus will be on outliers and quick summaries of the rest. Back to the top of the checklist, we find Snow Goose early in Region 7; N. Shoveler and N. Pintail in several Regions by the end of August; an early Redhead in Region 1; White-winged Scoter in Regions 1, 2, 5, & 6 (16 in Region 6); and Red-necked Grebe in Region 2 on 28 July and several additional times in August. There are a few peak counts for the late summer hawk movement along the south shore of Lake Ontario from Braddock Bay and Derby Hill and note of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon numbers picking up at shorebird gathering sites. With dryness and much exposed habitat, there was hope of increased shorebirds, but this turned out not to be the reality in most places. However, there were some good counts and diversity. Among the new arrivals, we had two species in June, including a Regional record early Semipalmated Plover on 25 June in Region 2, 19 species in July, and one more species added in August. The more interesting records include: Willet in four Regions (sometimes indicated as Eastern or Western), with maxima four in Region 2, seven in Region 3, and four in Region 9; Whimbrel in five Regions; Red Knot only in Regions 2 & 5; Sanderling numbers low; a lone Western Sandpiper in Region 8; Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Regions 3 & 5; Wilson’s Phalarope in Region 3; and Red-necked Phalarope in at least six Regions, with maxima of six in Region 3, and 11 in Region 5 on 26 July. Gulls and terns were generally noted in relatively low numbers for this part of their migration.

Among the passerines we again find most of the species arriving as expected in August, with maybe a few more a bit early relative to prior recent years. Among the more interesting comments and reports are: most swallows, if reported at all, were at low maxima—only 1109 Purple Martins in Region 1 and just one Tree Swallow count over 1000, in Region 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet early in Regions 2 & 9; Gray-checked Thrush Regionally record early in Region 1; Swainson’s Thrush very early in Region 2, where birds were banded on 23 & 29 July & 14 August, and appeared by mid-August in Regions 4, 5, & 6; Magnolia Warbler and Cape May Warbler at Regional record early dates in Region 2; a Kentucky Warbler in Region 3; Connecticut Warbler banded on 28 August in Region 2 and seen 22-24 August in Region 8; and Yellow-breasted Chats banded on 12, 14, & 22 August in Region 2, though no other reports have been received for the species in the Region this year.

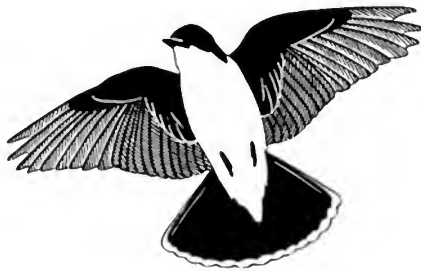
White-throated Sparrow returned early in Regions 1 & 2, two Dickcissels were noted flying over the lakewatch in Region 2 in August, and an amazing 2,500 Bobolinks were tallied in Region 3 on 23 August. We also had a taste of irruptions hopefully to come with: several Regional editors noting Red-breasted Nuthatch movements, Red Crossbills in seven Regions, a few White-winged

Crossbills, Pine Siskins in all Regions, and a few Evening Grosbeaks in five Regions.

RARITIES

This summer saw a good collection of rarities found, though a few are only Regionally or seasonally rare. Among the waterfowl we have only Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Region 6, Greater White-fronted Goose seasonally rare in Region 5, and Eurasian Wigeon in Region 9. Both American White Pelican and Brown Pelican appeared in Region 1. Two Great Cormorants in Region 2 were a first June Regional record for the species. Among the herons and egrets we have Little Blue Heron in Regions 1, 2, & 3; Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Region 3; and a second Regional White-faced Ibis in Region 1. Black Vulture is likely expanding breeding in the State, but was Regionally rare in Regions 1 & 2. Mississippi Kite in Region 9 and Swainson's Hawk in Region 5 top the raptors. Among the shorebirds, American Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, and Ruff were noted in Region 3, another American Avocet in Region 9, and a Western Sandpiper in Region 8. Rarer gulls and terns included: seasonally rare Black-headed Gull in Region 1 and Little Gull in Region 7, Laughing Gull in Region 2, Franklin's Gull in Region 1, and a first Regional record of Sandwich Tern in Region 5. Passerine rarities were few, with the best being now rare Loggerhead Shrikes on 13 June and 5 July in Region 2, seasonally rare White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky Warbler in Region 3; Blue Grosbeak in Region 9, and Dickcissel in Regions 2, 3 (nesting), and 5.

For bird of the season, I'll fall back to the main emphasis on the breeding season and go with the State's first mid-summer record of Fox Sparrow in Region 7.



REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2012 was warm, pleasant, and dry following a cool first week. The average temperature was 68.2° F, 1.9° above average. A total of 2.68" of rain fell at the Buffalo airport, 0.98" below normal. The warm and dry conditions continued in July and August. July was the third warmest month in the 142-year record for Buffalo. The average temperature was 75.5°, 4.4° above normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was only 0.87", 2.36" below average, although some portions of the Region received heavy rain during the last week of the month. The average August temperature was 71.7°, 2.1° above normal, which was lowered by a slight cool stretch 17-22 August. There was 1.24" of rain, 2.02" below average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

NYSDEC monitoring of colonial waterbirds revealed that most species had high nest counts and success this year. Common Terns increased to a record 2,646 nesting pairs in Buffalo Harbor and the Niagara River. Mink depredation resulted in abandonment of the Donnelly's Pier colony. The smaller colonies on the upper Niagara River near Buckhorn Island SP continually suffer nest failure from falling guano and debris from overhead cormorant nests; NYSDEC is discussing plans with National Grid to discourage cormorant nesting at this location. This year was a survey year for gull colonies, which NYSDEC conducts every five years. Ring-billed Gulls increased by 13% since the 2007 survey to 42,125 nesting pairs. Herring Gull nests totaled 264, up 51% from 2007.

Double-crested Cormorants at 1,333 pairs were down slightly from last year's record count. They did not nest at Strawberry Island due to presence of Bald Eagles early in the season (although the eagles did not nest). Cormorants were also less of a nuisance at Motor Island this year, with only 30 pairs nesting. NYSDEC culled or oiled 38% of the regional nests. There were 49 Great Egret nests at Motor Island, down only four from last year's record count. Great Egrets increased to 22 nests on the islands above Niagara Falls in the second year of that colony. Exciting news arrived that Paul Hess discovered a few Great Egret nests at a large Great Blue Heron colony on Iroquois NWR, marking the first time they've nested on the refuge and now a third location for the Region. Great Blue Herons at 89 nests had the highest total in the last four years (note these totals are for the Niagara River only). Black-crowned Night-Herons had only 11 nests at Motor Island but increased in the islands above Niagara Falls to 109 nests.

There were seven territorial **Peregrine Falcon** pairs, six nests, and 15 chicks. **Merlins** were found in three areas in June and July, which has been about typical numbers during breeding season for recent years.

The next three species to breed in Region 1 are most likely Trumpeter Swan, Black Vulture, and Sandhill Crane. Some or all may have already bred here but I'm not aware of any documented evidence. All three were sighted this summer in locations where they have occurred regularly in recent years. Two Trumpeter Swans were seen throughout the summer at Oak Orchard WMA, where they continued from spring. **Black Vultures** were seen along the Niagara River in Lewiston in June and August; they have been regular in this area over the last 2+ years. Jim Berry found a **Sandhill Crane** at Watts Flats WMA in early August, which is consistent with summer sightings there over the past few years.

Uncommon and/or declining breeding species were found in mostly similar numbers and locations as in recent years. **Upland Sandpipers** were again only found at Tillman Road WMA. There were no **Common Nighthawk** reports in June or July, and migrant numbers were mostly in single digits. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from nine locations, which is above average for recent years. **Sedge Wren** was reported from Knox Farm SP and Conewango Swamp WMA. Swainson's Thrush was found at two locations, Little Valley and South Hill State Forest, besides its usual haunts in Allegany SP. Golden-winged Warbler went unreported, but I suspect that efforts to find them in June are extremely limited. **Yellow-throated Warbler** continued its regular presence in the Red House Section of the Allegany SP. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at their regular location at Tonawanda WMA again, with an additional sighting in Oak Orchard WMA. Chris Hollister found the only **Yellow-breasted Chat** this summer, with one at West Valley on 17 July. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported from two locations, both holdovers from spring. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported for the sixth straight year, but efforts to find them are very limited.

Celeste Morien and Carl Zenger have helped increase Purple Martin numbers around Iroquois NWR and vicinity through their efforts coupled with a network of volunteers and with the New York State Purple Martin Project. Nest box colonies were established at six sites and yielded 69 nests. For the second year in a row, Alec Humann witnessed Purple Martins in migration movement over Grand Island in late August. He counted 1,109 on 31 August.

The spring shorebird migration lingered into early June, with highlights of 15 **White-rumped Sandpipers** on 2 June and an impressive four **Wilson's Phalaropes** on 3 June, both occurring at Tonawanda WMA. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were the highlight of the late summer shorebird season. Joe Mitchell found three in Buffalo Harbor on 18 August, which were soon followed by three and then four at Batavia WWTP a few days later. A Red-necked Phalarope along with a Wilson's Phalarope at Oak Orchard WMA closed out August on the 31st. **Whimbrels** were sighted on multiple occasions at Buffalo Outer Harbor and nearby Tiffi Nature Preserve in late August; this species is less than annual in summer.

Little Gulls were again found in early summer among immature Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara SP, including three on 17 June and one on 7 July. Willie D'Anna found a Franklin's Gull in Wilson 17 August. **Lesser**

Black-backed Gulls were found at Niagara Falls SP on two occasions in August. Individual **Forster's Terns** were sighted at Olcott in June and at Batavia WWTP in July. A Black Tern on Lake Ontario in Wilson on 11 June was unusual and the only report away from the breeding grounds at Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs.

Warblers and other songbird migrants were reported over the second half of August. Red-breasted Nuthatches were in evidence this August, made even more noticeable following the lack of a migration movement last year. Dominic Sherony and Brad Carlson saw a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Tifft Nature Preserve on 28 August on a day with noticeable migration movement. This is the earliest fall arrival documented for this species in the Region.

Among the rarities sighted this summer, the most notable was a **White-faced Ibis** found and identified by Willie D'Anna at the Modern Landfill wetlands in Lewiston. This was the first record for the Region since one was collected in 1844! The field marks were documented by multiple observers including the red iris of the eyes. General consensus was that this was a second year bird.

On the heels of one sighted in late May, there were two **Little Blue Heron** sightings during the summer. John G. Fedak documented an adult along Conewango Creek in the town of Poland on 2 June and then Kathy Hardiman found an immature along the Allegheny River in Olean on 31 July. The Olean bird was seen by multiple observers in the week following the initial sighting.

Both North American pelican species were sighted this summer. An **American White Pelican** was found at Tifft Nature Preserve on 3 June, which followed sightings in the Region this spring. Much rarer was a juvenile **Brown Pelican** that Jim Pawlicki saw land near cormorants on the gravelly spit at Donnelly's Breakwall in Buffalo Harbor on 27 August. Pawlicki noted that there had been reports of Brown Pelican(s) on Lake Erie in Ontario and Ohio earlier in the week. This marks the fourth record for the Region. Some other notable reports of uncommon species included the breeding plumaged **Red-throated Loon** at Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary that lingered a few days into early June, **Red Crossbills** found by Betsy Brooks on several occasions in Ward, and Pine Siskins at several locations.

Colonial waterbird nest data is courtesy of Connie Adams and Jacquie Walters of NYSDEC.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; MI – Motor I, NR, ERIE; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, ERIE; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Mute Swan: max 18 PB 3 Jun; 3 DH 12 Jun; 2 Wilson NIAG 17 Jun; 8 Lyndonville ORLE 30 Jul.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 OOWMA 2, 10 Jul, 31 Aug (CM, MW); suspected same birds present through summer.

Wood Duck: 81 BWWTP 28 Jul; max 160, 200 INWR 23, 31 Aug (CM, MW).

Gadwall: 4, 3 BWWTP 4, 24 Jun; 1, 2 INWR 4, 11 Jun; max 17 BWWTP 10, 20 Aug.

Am. Wigeon: 1, 3 INWR 2 Jun, 16 Jul; 1, 2 BWWTP 19, 20 Aug; 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 27 Aug; only reports.

Blue-winged Teal: 6 TWMA 4 Jun; 10, 15 INWR 26, 28 Jul; 40 Gratwick P NIAG 17 Aug (NS); max 65 OOWMA 31 Aug (CM).

N. Shoveler: max 11, 8 BWWTP 20, 29 Aug; 5 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 22 Aug.

N. Pintail: 2, 1 BWWTP 24 Jun, 20 Aug; only reports.

Green-winged Teal: 2 TWMA 7 Jun; BWWTP 24 Jun; 128, 150 INWR 19, 28 Jul; max 200 OOWMA 31 Aug (MW); impressive numbers for summer.

Redhead: 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 10 Aug (JM, NY), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: BWWTP 20 Aug (WW), only report.

Lesser Scaup: 2 BWWTP 4 Jun., only report.

scoter sp: FNSP 28 Aug (CM), only report.

Bufflehead: BWWTP 25 Aug (KF), only report.

Com. Goldeneye: DH 26, 28 Jul (TL), rare in summer.

Red-breasted Merganser: 5 Somerset NIAG 3 Jun; 3, 4 DH 26, 28 Jul, only reports.

Ruddy Duck: 11, 14, 20 BWWTP 4 Jun, 21 Jul, 19 Aug; regular in summer at this location; Buffalo Harbor ERIE 22 Aug (WW).

Red-throated Loon: SPNS thru 3 Jun (MZ!), continued from late May.

Com. Loon: 8 Somerset NIAG 3 Jun (WD), only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 35, 36 INWR 30 Jun, 3 Aug.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1): Tifft NP 3 Jun (JM), followed multiple spring reports.

BROWN PELICAN: Buffalo Harbor ERIE 27 Aug (JP! NYSARC), followed reports of individual(s) on L Erie in Ontario and Ohio.

Double-crested Cormorant: 1333 nests from Buffalo Harbor, NR (JWa, CA), down slightly from last year's record high. 38% of nests culled or oiled; max 634 BuSP 12 Jul.

Am. Bittern: Tifft NP 3 Jun; 2 Jamestown Audubon CHAU 2 Aug; only reports away from INWR, TWMA, OOWMA.

Least Bittern: 2 INWR 11 Jun; DH 19 Aug (TL), unusual location; INWR 20 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: 89 nests MI 3 May (JW, CA), no disturbance from cormorants like last year; 99, 335 INWR 19 Jul, 3 Aug (CM), flying to roost; 190 OOWMA 2 Aug (MW).

Great Egret: 49 n MI 4 May (JW, CA); 22 n islands above NF, colony grew in second year from 5 n in 2011; 86 MI 9 Jul (WW); nesting confirmed at INWR 20 Jul, *intro*; max 264, 340 INWR 22, 23 Aug (CM), coming to roost; 2 Allegheny Res CATT 27 Aug.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R1): Poland CHAU 2 Jul (JFed); Olean CATT 31 Jul, 1 Aug (KH, JR, mob); good showing.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 109 n NF, only 11 n MI 4 May (JW, CA); 30 Tiftt NP 28 Aug.
WHITE-FACED IBIS: Lewiston NIAG 17-18 Jul (WD! NYSARC, mob); 2nd Reg record and first since 1844!

BLACK VULTURE (R1): 1, 3 Lewiston NIAG 20 Jun, 28 Aug (WD, CM, JP), species continues to show affinity for this location.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: similar breeding locations as last year.

Bald Eagle: well reported from nesting areas and elsewhere

N. Goshawk: no reports.

Merlin: Buffalo ERIE 2, 14 Jun (PY); 2, 1 ChauL 16 Jun, 23 Aug (JB, TL), breeding; AISP 2 Jul, 14 Aug (JB, TB); Tiftt NP 30 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: 15 chicks from the six regional nests (CA); WoBSP 6, 24 Aug; Albion ORLE 11 Aug; TWMA 22 Aug; 1, 3 INWR 22, 30 Aug; BWWT 29 Aug; Bethany GENE 31 Aug.

Virginia Rail: CSWMA 30 Jul, only report away from INWR.

Sora: Kiantone CHAU 17 Jul; Beaver Meadow Audubon WYOM 25 Jul, only reports away from INWR.

Com. Gallinule: max 34 INWR 30 Aug.

Am. Coot: max 50, 70 INWR 27 Jul, 3 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: WFWMA 3 Aug (JB), previous reports in summer from this location.

Black-bellied Plover: arr INWR 16 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 10 OOWMA, 4 TWMA 4 Jun; arr Dayton CATT 14 Jul; 20 Albion ORLE 11 Aug; max 48 Tiftt NP 28 Aug (AH).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 49 BWWT 21 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr TWMA 7 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 5 INWR, 2 BWWT 7 Jul; max 15 INWR 30 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 INWR 11 Jun; arr 16 INWR 30 Jun (CM, GL); max 44 INWR 7 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 3, 4 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 12, 23 Jun, regular location.

Whimbrel: 2, 1 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 21, 22 Aug (JM, JP); 2 Tiftt NP 28 Aug (AH, JFel); uncommon.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 7 DH, 1 Barcelona CHAU 26 Jul (TL); WoBSP 5 Aug; INWR 17 Aug; 3-1 Buffalo Harbor 10 Aug – 31 Aug; 4 DH 19 Aug; BWWT 29 Aug; good showing.

Sanderling: arr 1, 3, 4 DH 26, 28 Jul, 19 Aug; 4 BWWT 28 Aug; only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 45, 57 TWMA 2, 3 Jun (AG, PY); last 15 OOWMA 4 Jun; arr 2 BWWT 16 Jul; 20 Albion ORLE 11 Aug; 48 Tiftt NP 28 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: arr INWR 30 Jun; 35 TWMA 8 Jul; 50 INWR 14 Aug; max 63 Tiftt NP 28 Aug; 43 BWWT 29 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 OOWMA 4 Jun (CM); max 15, 2 TWMA 2, 4 Jun (AG, CM); arr INWR 14 Aug; Tiftt NP 26 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr Albion ORLE 9 Aug; Tiftt NP 23 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 Kiantone CHAU 17 Jul; max 15 INWR 14 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2, 2 Lewiston NIAG 17 Jul, 5 Aug; 3, 3 INWR 28 Jul, 15 Aug; Tiftt NP 29, 30 Aug; 2 OOWMA 31 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Dayton CATT 14 Jul; 2 Lewiston NIAG 17 Jul; 2, 1 INWR 3, 17 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 3 INWR 30 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: 4 TWMA 3 Jun (PY, BH), impressive number; OOWMA 31 Aug (MW, CM).

Red-necked Phalarope: 3-2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 18-21 Aug (JM, CM, JP); 3, 4 BWWT 20, 21 Aug (JM, DB); OOWMA 31 Aug (MW); good showing.

Bonaparte's Gull: 45 FNSP 17 Jun (WW), consistent with Jun reports in recent years; 8 Wilson NIAG 17 Jun; 8 Amherst ERIE 24 Jul; 2 INWR 26 Jul; BWWT 26 Jul.

Little Gull: 3, 1 FNSP 17 Jun, 7 Jul (WW!, WD!), continued reports at this location in recent early summers.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: Wilson NIAG 17 Aug (WD), less than annual.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1, 2 NFSP 2, 28 Aug (WW, JP), only reports.

Ring-billed Gull: 42,125 n in Reg, up 13% from last survey in 2007 (CA); new nest colony on abandoned buildings in Lockport NIAG.

Herring Gull: 264 n in Reg, up 51% from last survey in 2007 (CA); 30 Olcott NIAG 9 Jun; 300 Canadaway Creek NS CHAU, 250 DH 19 Aug (TL), counts rarely made in late summer.

Caspian Tern: BeSP 9 Jun; 24 Wilson NIAG 17 Jun; 26 PB 19 Jul; 16, 21 INWR 28 Jul, 3 Aug, good counts for inland location; S. Dayton CATT 31 Jul; 45 BeSP 27 Aug.

Black Tern: Wilson NIAG 11 Jun (WD); 16 INWR 27 Jun; max 28 TWMA 7 Jul (CW); max 28 INWR 25 Jul (CM).

Com. Tern: 2426 n Buffalo Harbor, NR 19 May (CA), record count, mink depredation resulted in abandonment of Donnelly's Breakwall colony; 75 FNSP 17 Jun; 65 Buffalo NR 9 Jul; max 80 Wilson NIAG 27 Jul.

Forster's Tern: Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (WD!); BWWT 26 Jul (JM, CC); only reports.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: arr Williamsville ERIE 4 Aug; 1, 1 Clarence ERIE 9, 21 Aug; 1, 1 Tonawanda ERIE 16, 22 Aug; max 20 Buffalo ERIE 20 Aug; 5 BeSP 24 Aug; 2 Jamestown CHAU 31 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from nine locations.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BeSP 25 Aug (DeS); AmSP 28 Aug (RS).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Wilson NIAG 23 Aug; AmSP 28 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 5 AISP 1-7 Jul.

E. Kingbird: max 16 Knox Farm SP ERIE 12 Aug (SB).

Purple Martin: 90 Bethany GENE 9 Jun (DB); 339 INWR, 64 TWMA 22 Jun (CM); 70 Medina ORLE 31 Jul; 100 Clarence ERIE 26 Aug, moving southeast; max 1109 Grand I ERIE 31 Aug (AH!), migration count.

Tree Swallow: 300 Basom GENE 27 Jul; max 900 Batavia GENE 19 Aug (CM, CC).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 30 BWWT 20 Aug.

Bank Swallow: 80 BWWT 4 Jun; max 880 INWR 21 Jul (WW); 220 BWWT 20 Aug.

Sedge Wren: Knox Farm SP ERIE 14 Jun (CR); CSWMA 1, 17 Jul (TL, TB, PM); only reports.

Veery: arr AmSP 18 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Tiffi NP 28 Aug (DoS! BC), record early fall arrival.

Swainson's Thrush: 1, 2 AISP 2 Jun, 1-7 Jul; 2 Little Valley CATT 24 Jun (PY); South Hill SF CATT 30 Jun (TL); arr Wilson NIAG 17 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from six locations.

N. Waterthrush: arr Buffalo ERIE, Wilson NIAG 29 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: Carroll CHAU 9 Jun (MM); AISP 23 Jun; Vandalia CATT 24 Jun; max 6 Allegheny Ind Res CATT 24 Jun (PY); arr NFSP, AmSP, Tiffi NP 28 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: TWMA 12 Jun, only regular recent breeding location; OOWMA 29 Jun.

Tennessee Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 7 Jun (WD); arr AmSP 18 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP 18 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 11 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: arr AmSP 22 Aug.

Am. Redstart: arr 4 AmSP 21 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 9 Allegheny Ind Res CATT 24 Jun (PY).

N. Parula: 4 AISP 1 Jun (CM); Allegheny Ind Res CATT 24 Jun (PY); arr NFSP 28 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 6 Jun; arr AmSP 18 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 3 AmSP 18 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr AmSP, Wilson NIAG 18 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AmSP 17 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 7 Jun; arr AmSP 22 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last WTSP 2 Jun; 2 Carroll CHAU 9 Jun; arr AmSP, NFSP 28 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 5 Jun; Lancaster ERIE 9 Jul (MM), odd location for date; arr 2 NFSP, AmSP 28 Aug.

Palm Warbler: arr NFSP 28 Aug (CM, JP).

Pine Warbler: still seemingly increasing as breeder.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 11 Aug.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1-3 AISP 2 Jun-8 Jul (TB!, WD), regular at this location.

Prairie Warbler: AISP 3, 23 Jun; 6, 16 Yorkshire CATT 5, 16 Jun; 2, 1 Carroll CHAU 9, 16 Jun; N. Harmony CHAU 15 Jun (JB); 2 Andover ALLE 2 Jul; 3 Alfred ALLE 24 Jul.

Canada Warbler: last WTSP 2 Jun; reported from five breeding locations; arr 2 AmSP 17 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last AISP 2 Jun (CM); arr 2 AmSP 18 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: W Valley CATT 17 Jul (CHo), good find.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: LBSP 3 Jun (WD), new possible breeding location; Portland CHAU 15 Jul (CHa), continued from May.

Vesper Sparrow: max 3, 4 Ashford CATT 16 Jun, 1 Jul; Barre ORLE 8 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Albion ORLE 6 Jun; 2, 3 Alexander GENE 7 Jun, 5 Jul; max 6 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 23 Jun (RS); 2 Artpark SP NIAG 17 Jun; 2 Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 3 Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports. Not reported since 2006.

White-throated Sparrow: Bush Hill SF CATT 17 Jun; Ward ALLE 6 Aug; only reports.

Dark-eyed Junco: Tonawanda ERIE 14 Jun (PH), unusual location for summer.

Bobolink: max 60 Jamestown Airport CHAU 7 Jul (TL).

Orchard Oriole: 2 SPNS 2 Jun (LH); 2 + yg AISP 2 Jun (TB); N. Harmony CHAU 10 Jun; 1-2 Wilson NIAG 14-29 Jun; Newfane NIAG 21 Jun; Tillman Rd WMA 22 Jun (MM); CSWMA 1 Jul; 3 Medina ORLE 2 Jul; John White WMA GENE 7 Jul; well reported; increasing.

Red Crossbill: 2, 3, 4 Ward ALLE 24, 29 Jul, 6 Aug (EB), fewer reports in recent years probably due to searcher effort.

Pine Siskin: max 30 Olcott NIAG 9 Jun (WD); max 30 Wilson NIAG 17 Jun (WD, AG); N. Java WYOM 5 Jul (DJ); 4, 7, 1 Wilson NIAG 8, 12 Jul, 1 Aug (WD, BP); following big movements in spring.



REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The summer of 2012 was basically a warm and pleasant summer for any outdoor pursuits, with rainfall within an inch of normal and spaced to provide many long dry stretches. There were only seven days with rainfall over 0.50". There was only one record high, 97° F on 17 July, and two days with record rainfall—1.21" on 6 June and 1.70" on 5 August. The summer season, June through August, was the 14th warmest on record, but with enough rainfall to hold off real drought. June temperatures averaged 68.4°, 2.2° above normal. Precipitation at 3.98" was 0.64" above normal. In July, temperatures averaged 74.5°, 3.7° above normal, with precipitation 2.62", 0.71" below normal. Finally, August temperatures averaged 70.6°, 1.3° above normal, with precipitation totaling 2.73", 0.74" below normal and with over half that total recorded on one day.

This was a great summer to be outdoors. It should have been a good season for breeding success. However, there was relatively little serious birding in most of the most interesting breeding habitat in the Region—the hills south in the Finger Lakes or the mixed grasslands and farmland just north of there. A drawdown in the Conesus Lake Inlet marshes led to some more birding there and some added waterfowl and shorebird reports. Less than ideal habitat for birds and/or viewing in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County led to fewer reports from there. Also, water level control issues in the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) site resulted in fewer marsh and shorebird reports from that area. On the lakeshore, it is hard to separate reporting from bird movement effects due to the current lack of extended-time lakewatch monitoring compared with the recent past. It is likely both factors contributed to fewer waterfowl records from there.

This remains one of the more complex seasons to document and assess. It is not just the breeding season, though it does contain a large part of that for most species. However, it begins and ends with migration, so it's back to approaching the task in that sequence.

This year, the tail end of spring migration seemed weaker than normal, possibly due to the very early warmth in March and many species on the move early and through the Region or going right into breeding. There were few waterbirds still passing into June, with only Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Loon, and possibly Horned Grebe at very late dates. While these all are species for which separation of late migrants from summering birds is a judgment call, still, the records at these dates is interesting. Dave Tetlow's **Great Cormorant** on 8 June was a rarity and hard to fit, likely a wanderer, but also the first Regional June record. Moving on to raptors, historical monitoring at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch to mid-June has showed that migrant raptors are still moving then. There was no formal watch this year in June, but Mike Tetlow picked up a piece in Webster with 44 Broad-winged Hawks on 11 June, and Wade and Melissa Rowley saw a late Rough-legged Hawk in N. Wolcott, Wayne County on the same date.

Among the shorebirds, the usual early June movement was poor or largely missed, represented by only Semipalmated Plover, both yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Dunlin, with the last reports of each in the first five days of the month and numbering only 1-2 birds each. Common Nighthawk reached a peak of only six and was last reported on 10 June, another poor showing for this species. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is another late migrant and often best monitored by the BBBO banding data. The peak number banded was 13 on 2 June and the last six on 5 June. **Loggerhead Shrike**, called Migrant Shrike in the past, is now a rare species here, so one on 13 June in Hamlin is hard to assess and another on 5 July at Braddock Bay even harder; migrants vs. prospecting back into their former breeding range? Passerine banding into June also picked up the usual late movement of Swainson's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler, but Gray-checked Thrush was missed. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows have been relatively regular lingerers near the Lake Ontario shore, where breeding is unlikely. A count of 352 Cedar Waxwings along the lakeshore on 2 June is late for so many. Palm Warbler on 15 June is the latest Regional "spring" record. Finally, White-winged Crossbill often appears almost anywhere at any date, but 48 on 6 June in Dave Tetlow's yard is a very large number for the date.

Turning our attention to the "breeding" season, back at the waterbirds we find our swans still doing well, Mute Swan unfortunately so, and Trumpeter Swan centered as usual in the NMWMA in Wayne County, though with fewer nesting sites actually reported and the outlier on Atlantic Avenue, active for many years, devoid of visible swans this year. Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, and Great Blue Heron counts suggest a good breeding season. Lingering summer species included: N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Common Loon, and Horned Grebe, all in small numbers and all birds fairly regular as non-breeding summer visitants. Great Egret is interesting in the numbers present through the season and at locations at least suggesting the potential for breeding, if not now, soon. However, there were no reports of sightings from actual nesting colonies and the increased numbers may

be simply related to the increased breeding numbers in Region 1 to our west or even to drought far to our southwest this summer.

Among the raptors, we had continuing reports of Ospreys on nests at the sites occupied in recent years; Merlin reports from sites suggestive of breeding or used in recent years, but no nests reported; and another summer of crazy goings-on with the Rochester Peregrine Falcons, but finally a young fledged in July. Two adult Peregrine Falcons in Lyons in mid-June was also very interesting. Common Gallinule reports again were nearly all from the NMWMA or HANA, but there was finally one report from the lakeshore marshes in Greece. Sandhill Cranes were again reported, with adults and two colts from the Carncross Road area in the NMWMA; adults from Chimney Bluffs in northern Wayne County; and adults and one likely full grown young from the Taylor Marsh area north of Honeoye in Ontario County in the latter half of August.

There were no specific breeding reports for shorebirds, though clearly some species breed in the Region. Caspian Terns continued to visit lakeshore sites through the summer, with a maximum of 110 at Sodus Point in late June, likely visiting from breeding colonies at the east end of the Lake Ontario. The only breeding reports for Black Tern were from the NMWMA. Once again there were no breeding reports for either E. Whip-poor-will or Common Nighthawk. Over most of the Region tent caterpillars and gypsy moths seemed scarce; so also were both species of cuckoos. Red-headed Woodpecker totals of at least 29 at four locations and a peak total of 22, censused by Dave Tetlow in Hamlin Beach alone on 27 August, were encouraging for this diminishing species.

Finally, among the passerines we again had Fish Crow reports through the summer, but no breeding confirmation. Some of the local Bank Swallow colonies showed strong numbers, but Cliff Swallows were few. As noted earlier, reports of some of the scarcer breeding birds may be low due to lack of focused searches. A Golden-winged Warbler was found in one of the general areas of nesting in the last NY Breeding Bird Atlas but with no confirmation of breeding this year. Prothonotary Warbler again nested near the Regions 2 & 3 boundary in the Town of Savannah. Hooded Warbler numbers continue to be very good across the Region. Clay-colored Sparrows continued at sites both along the Cook-Lakeshore Road area in Hamlin and Kendall and the Nations Road area north of Geneseo, both previously occupied sites. While Grasshopper Sparrow numbers are locally good, Henslow's Sparrow was again unreported.

The final major season of the summer is fall migration. This can be messy. It can be hard to separate first migrants from breeding birds in parts of the Region or from summer lingerers in some cases. In my opinion, using historical data, NY Breeding Bird Atlas maps, and eBird data, one can often detect new migrants to areas where they have not been present as breeders. In some cases it will require a judgment call. Some may debate the utility or even possibility of making some such calls, but I think it worthwhile and in any case reviewable in the future.

As early as June, we have returning shorebirds, with Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least Sandpiper recorded by month's end. The plover was record early on 25 June. From there the pace accelerates. Continuing with

the shorebirds, we added ten species in July and six more in August, none in really large numbers or at unusual dates. Some of the more interesting finds were “Western” Willet, five reports of single Whimbrels, a Red Knot, and a Red-necked Phalarope, all nearly annual on the local list. More species, rarities, and high counts were reported from neighboring Regions only short distances beyond ours, drawing local observers to those sites.

Back to the waterbirds again, the fall start was SLOW. American Wigeon, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser were all found in small numbers in the early parts of their fall arrival date distributions. Red-necked Grebe was again seen early on 28 July, a date matched five times in the past five years with only one record earlier. Others were seen sporadically through August, still relatively early birds historically. There was only one really sizable movement of Double-crested Cormorant observed passing the lakewatch site, with 415+ on 18 August. This is not an unusual number in itself, only in that it was the lone migrant tally over 100. A color-banded Double-crested Cormorant was photographed by Jim Adams on Irondequoit Bay on 26 August, later found to have been banded in 2002 on Oneida Lake.

There is a regular summer movement of raptors past the Braddock Bay hawkwatch. This was again not officially tallied, but Dave Tetlow reported some good counts this year, with the following maxima: 16 Bald Eagles, 207 Broad-winged Hawks, and 326 Red-tailed Hawks. Numbers were low by historical standards. As usual, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports picked up in August, often from near shorebird gathering sites. We often have gull and tern movements picking up in late summer, but numbers were generally low. Among the more interesting finds were: a color-banded adult Caspian Tern first seen at Hamlin Beach SP after banding as a chick on Gull Island in Canada on the northeast shore of Lake Ontario in 2008 (but seen here most other years since), an adult Forster’s Tern on 8 July, three reports of 1-2 Black Terns across the Lake Ontario shore in August, and the first fall report of Parasitic Jaeger on 27 August.

Late in the season no Common Nighthawks were reported, though they appeared soon after. Chimney Swifts were noted as present in numbers over 100 in new sites in Lyons and East Rochester as well as at the usual York Central School site in late August, but then disappeared quickly.

Among the passerines, we have many already moving in July, with some of the breeding warblers and flycatchers hard to find by August, the swallows massing, robins and blackbirds flocking, and Bobolinks off to the marshes. Returning Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo arrived at normal dates. Swallow peak counts were less than impressive. Swainson’s Thrushes banded on 23 and 29 July added to our very few July records on the Lake Ontario Plain. There really are no serious breeding records within 30+ miles of BBBO. A bird banded on 14 August was still very early, but to add to the mystery of origin was a hatch year bird with flight feathers not fully grown banded on the 22nd, making one wonder how far it could have flown to reach the banding station. Later, larger than usual numbers were both banded and reported

from the field on 28 August. After two years of late August Cedar Waxwing counts of over 1000, there was no really large number reported this year. There were 17 warbler species reported as first fall migrants, most banded on the lakeshore and clearly well away from breeding sites in the Region. Twelve of these are very easily seen as migrants, the other five are judgment calls. Record early migrants were Cape May Warbler on 26 July and Magnolia Warbler on 13 August. A Connecticut Warbler banded on 28 August was also early. Three different Yellow-breasted Chats banded on 12 (recaptured on 14), 14, and 22 August are especially intriguing as the only Regional reports to date for the year. Three singles of Red Crossbill noted by Dave Tetlow along the lakeshore on 27, 28, and 31 August raise hopes of more to come this fall and winter.

Rarities were few this season. The best were **Great Cormorant** on 8 June by Dave Tetlow, a first Regional June record; immature **Little Blue Heron** on 28 July by Mike Tetlow seen flying from Region 3 into southern Wayne County; **Laughing Gull** on 3 June by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach SP; and **Dickcissels** overhead passing the lakewatch on 13 & 14 August by Andy Guthrie. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were only reported in June, but in recent years have been seen in every month, and Loggerhead Shrike and Fish Crow were covered earlier.

For the season, the species reported monthly were 2-6 species above the 10-year averages—180 vs. 177.9, 168 vs. 162.5, and 186 vs. 181.0, respectively, and totals for year to date at the end of each month were within one species, reaching 274 at season's end vs. 275.2 for the 10-year average.

Given this forum to editorialize, a bit more on the records which Regional editors use to prepare these reports. Again, eBird records provide a large percentage of the data in a relatively easily usable format. This season there were over 27,000 eBird records for Region 2. However, these cannot be used uncritically, nor can the various statistical tools simply be applied to the data mechanistically. Someone must first scan and somehow account for duplicate records of several types. Easiest to find and repair, probably even electronically, is the case of several birders birding together and reporting separately or sharing a report, which then appears as several separate records. Looking at the people, places, and dates, these are easily converted to single entries. Next, what about the cases of many reports of the same species at the "same location" by one or many reporters over an extended date range? Again, easy to handle for a rare bird and to convert to a single individual over a date range. Otherwise it is essentially impossible to totally sort out. One can only arrive at minimum and maximum possible numbers of individuals, with reality somewhere in between. This can be further complicated by different observers calling the same location by different names and by different observers choosing to place their reporting point at different locations on the map, especially if they have birded a larger area. As an example for Region 2, in August there were 183 reports totaling 390 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Of these, 162 reports were by nine observers each at a location (often a home feeder), with a minimum of only 30 birds. But without marking the birds and with migration in progress, we will never know the exact number of individuals involved. There were 21 other reports of 31

birds from other scattered locations. This leaves 329 individuals which cannot be accurately assigned as different or just repeat sightings. Data analysis is not always simple, straight forward, or even possible.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CLI – Conesus Lake Inlet, including Wildlife Management Area marshes, LIVI; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, WAYN; OCP – Oatka Creek Park, MONR; S – Savannah, WAYN; SPt – Sodus Point, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: sev pairs with young in WAYN, *intro*; max 6 S (Hogback Rd) thru.

Mute Swan: max 40 IB 30 Aug.

Wood Duck: max 189 CLI 28 Aug (MW).

Am. Wigeon: 2, 6 CLI 16, 21 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 18 HANA 27 Aug.

N. Shoveler: G 4 Jul (DTc); arr 4 HANA 22 Aug (JP), early.

N. Pintail: G 29 Jul (CW); arr 2 S (Marten Tract) 25 Aug (TL), early.

Green-winged Teal: HANA 4-5 Jun; Greece 29 Jul (CW); max 35 IB-S 27 Aug (BCar); summering birds.

Greater Scaup: last HB 2 Jun (AGu).
Lesser Scaup: Conesus Lake 28 Jun (BP); IB-S 30 Aug (BCar); summering birds.
White-winged Scoter: arr 4 HB 29 Aug (DSh), early.
Com. Merganser: ad f & 17 y OCP 13-30 Jun (JAd, ph), n edge of breeding in Reg.
Red-breasted Merganser: last HB 16 Jun (AGu), late; arr HB 6 Aug (AGu), Reg. record early.
Ruddy Duck: G 15 Jul (DT), summering.
Red-throated Loon: last HB 2-4 Jun (AGu).
Com. Loon: 15 HB 2 Jun, getting late for so many; 6 HB 13 Aug, sum max.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 56 S (Van Dyne Spoor) 29 Jul (SH, JMc, BWa), very high.
Horned Grebe: HB 16 Jun (AGu), late; Conesus Lake 28 Jun (BP), very late or sum?.
Red-necked Grebe: 2 HB 28 Jul (JeB, AGu, TJ, CW), very early; 1, 3, 4 HB 10, 28, 30 Aug, still early.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 415+ HB 18 Aug (R&SS, DSh), only large count of migr; 1 color B IB 26 Aug (JAd, ph), *intro*.
GREAT CORMORANT (R2): 2 HB 8 Jun (DTe), 1st Reg June record.
Great Blue Heron: max 220 CLI 28 Jul (JK).
Great Egret: 7-9 HANA 13-19 Jul, high for date, nearby breeding?.
LITTLE BLUE HERON (R2): 1 imm flying n into S 28 Jul (MT).
Green Heron: max 28 HANA 5 Aug, good count.
BLACK VULTURE (R2): 1 HB 11 Aug (AGu), only rep.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nest + yg W of Avon on Genesee River thru; nest + yg Curtis Rd, T Parma thru, on cell tower; sev nests in WAYN.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Rush-Henrietta TLR, MONR 3 Jun; 1 BB 10 Aug.
Bald Eagle: max 16 BB 4 Aug (DTe).
Broad-winged Hawk: last 44 Webster Big Field 11 Jun (MT); max 207 BB 5 Aug (DTe).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 326 BB 5 Aug (DT).
Rough-legged Hawk: last N Wolcott WAYN 11 Jun (W&MR).
Merlin: 2 ad Letchworth SP Visitor's Center 8 Jul (JeB, TJ, CW), interesting loc; 7 other rep sev loc thru, but no nesting reported.
Peregrine Falcon: Rochester pr finally fledged 1 y Jul, *intro*; 2 ad Lyons WAYN 18 Jun (LL), interesting loc for date; 4 other rep, 5 ind sev loc Jul & Aug.
Com. Gallinule: G 29 Jul, scarce in lakeshore marshes now.

Sandhill Crane: 2 ad, 2y S thru (mob), usual nesting area and nearby; 2 Chimney Bluffs n WAYN 7 Jul (W&MR); 2 Taylor Marsh area ONTA 28 Jun (LB); 3 Taylor Marsh area ONTA 17 Aug thru (LB, *et al*), breeding?
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 3 Aug; max 27 G 19 Aug (DTe).
Am. Golden-Plover: arr Cuy 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 HB 3 Jun; arr S (Malone Tract) 25 Jun (W&MR), Reg record early.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 Eastview Mall Ponds 13 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: last CLI 1 Jun; arr 4 S (Muck Race Flats) 30 Jul.
"Western" Willet: 4 SB 26 Jul (M&JT).
Lesser Yellowlegs: last HB 3 Jun; arr G (Hogan Pt) 24 Jun.
Whimbrel: arr 3 Spt 24 Jul; 2 G 25 Jul; HB 28 Jul; HB 24, 28 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr Spt 25 Jul.
Red Knot: arr 1 HB 11 Aug (AGu).
Sanderling: arr & max 39 Spt 24 Jul (TJ, CW).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last CH 4 Jun; arr Lima Rd LIVI 18 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 3 S (Malone Tract) 25 Jun; max 130 S (Railroad Rd) 29 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MAC ponds 15 Aug (FMO).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr Conesus Inlet 28 Jul.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 Conesus Inlet 24 Jul.
Dunlin: last 2 HB 3 Jun.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 S (Muck Race Flats) 9 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CLI 4 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr Spt 26 Aug (M&JT).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 43 CH 9 Aug, low.
LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 near ad HB 3 Jun (AGu).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 HB 4 Jun (AGu); CH 4 Jun (KG).
Caspian Tern: max 110 Spt 24 Jun; color-banded bird (ANX) HB 18 Aug, back again, banded in 2008 as nestling.
Black Tern: max 10 S (Van Dyne Spoor) 10 Jun; 2 Chimney Bluffs 21 Aug; 2 HB 28 Aug; 1 M 29 Aug; few reports away from NMWMA.
Com. Tern: last 4 BB 21 Jun (DTe), late.
Forster's Tern: arr 1 ad PtB 8 Jul (GL), unusual date.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1 ad, lt HB 27 Aug (DTe), only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 6 G 1 Jun; last G (Burger P) 10 Jun; no Aug reports.

Chimney Swift: 120 York Central School, Grieggsville LIVI 20 Aug (JK); 120 Lyons Library WAYNE (LL); 100+ East Rochester thru mid Aug (DY); all departed by about end of season- early.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 29+ total 4 loc Jun, better numbers; max 22 HB 27 Aug (DTe), census in SP, high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 30 Cumming Nature Center ONTA 24 Jun (R&SS), illustration of numbers breeding in Reg if observers count.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max B 13 M 2 Jun (BBBO); last 6B M 5 Jun; arr 1B M 18 Aug.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Hamlin (N Hamlin Rd) 13 Jun (DTe, mob); BB 5 Jul (MI).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1-2 M (Owl Woods) 29 Aug (DB, DSh).

Fish Crow: 2 CH 4 Jun (KG); 1 CH 8 Jul (JeB, TJ, TL, CW); CH 19, 21 Aug (BCar, AGa), still no breeding confirmation in Reg.

Purple Martin: max 40 S (Martin Tract) 25 Aug, low.

Bank Swallow: 245 HB 16 Jun; max 450 HB 7 Jul; good counts from near Devil's Nose colony in HBSP.

Barn Swallow: max 450 Irondequoit Creek Marsh 28 Jun, good count.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1B M 28 Aug.

Gray-checked Thrush: no reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last 1B M 4 Jun; arr 1B M 23, 29 Jul, very early; 1B M 14 Jul, still early; 15 more B M thru Jul, HY bird banded 22 Jul still had not fully grown primaries, how far could it have flown from nest site?; max B 6 M 28 Aug; max 8 HB west end 28 Aug (RS), early for number.

Gray Catbird: total B 114 M Aug, high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 352 HB 2 Jun (AGu); no late Aug max this year.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr 1B M 20 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 N Wolcott WAYN 8-23 Jun (W&MR).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1B M 25 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 S (Armitage Rd) Jun (mob), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 1B M 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1B M 19 Aug, early.

Connecticut Warbler: arr 1B M 28 Aug, early.

Mourning Warbler: arr 2B M 25 Aug.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 50 M 1-31 Aug.

Am. Redstart: total B 58 M 1-31 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: 1B M 26 Jul (BBBO), Reg record early, recaptured 27 Jul; 1B M 14 Aug, also early.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1 Webster 13 Aug (PR), Reg record early.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1B M 19 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 1B M 4 Jun; arr 1B M 23 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1B M 22 Aug.

Palm Warbler: last 1 N Wolcott 15 June (W&MR), Reg record late.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 30 Jul (AGu), early.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr HB 30 Aug.

Canada Warbler: arr 1B M 20 Aug, very early migr.

Wilson's Warbler: last 2B M 5 Jun; arr 3B M (BBBO) 29 Aug; arr 1-4 M (Owl Woods) 29 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr 1B M 12 Aug, recaptured 14 Aug; 1B M 14 Aug; 1B M 22 Aug, only chat records to date this year in Reg.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Nations Rd 13 Jun (DSh); Kendall (Lakeshore Rd) 7 Jul

(JeB, TJ, TL, CW); 2-4 Hamlin (Cook Rd) 7-8 Jul (sev); all known breeding sites.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 6, 8 Nations Rd, Geneseo, LIVI 13 Jun, 8 Jul, good counts, known nesting area.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

White-throated Sparrow: last 1B M 3 Jun, late; arr 1B M 12 Aug, very early; 2 Chimney Bluffs WAYN 21 Aug (CA), early; 1B M 26 Aug, early.

White-crowned Sparrow: last 1G 5 Jun (KG), late.

Bobolink: max 90 G (Hogan Pt) 8 Jul (CW), good count.

DICKCISSEL (R2): HB 13 Aug (AGu); H 14 Aug (AGu); both flyover birds calling.

White-winged Crossbill: 48 G (Hogan Pt) 6 Jun (DTe), very large number for date.

Red Crossbill: 1 HB 27 Aug (DTe), very early; 1 G (Hogan Pt) 28 Aug (DTe), very early, 1 M (Owl Woods) 31 Aug (DTe), very early.

Pine Siskin: last HB 3, 5 Jun (AGu), late.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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It was a very dry summer in Region 3, with precipitation levels in Ithaca at less than half of historical averages in June and July before returning to normal levels in August.

Even so, the low rainfall did not seem to have a negative effect on habitat for wetland birds, which appeared in impressive numbers and diversity throughout the summer, especially at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR). Most notable among dabbling ducks was a Eurasian Wigeon first found by Gary Kohlenberg and Dominic Sherony on 19 August at Knox-Marsellus Marsh at MNWR. Knox-Marsellus and the adjacent Puddler's Marsh also hosted the season's highlights among wading birds—a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** seen by many birders over more than two weeks at the end of July and the beginning of August and a **Little Blue Heron** found by Mike and Joann Tetlow on 28 July. The latter bird was the second **Little Blue Heron** sighting of the season, following one at the Woodville boat launch in Yates County, as reported by Dave Tetlow on 21 July.

Knox-Marsellus and Puddler's Marsh were also center stage for MNWR's annual shorebird spectacle. Two Eurasian rarities topped the list. First, Wade and Melissa Rowley found and photographed a molting male **Ruff** at Puddler's Marsh on 24 June. Several observers found this bird again the following day. Then, remarkably, two different individual **Curlew Sandpipers** stopped by this area later in the summer. Tom Johnson and Chris Wood found the first, a still-reddish adult, at Knox-Marsellus on 24 July. This bird stayed for at least two more days. On 22 August, Douglas Robinson found a fresh juvenile Curlew Sandpiper at Puddler's Marsh. Brad Carlson found this bird again two days later.

It was also a fine summer for shorebird rarities in Tompkins County, toward the south end of Cayuga Lake. Tim Lenz found an American Avocet on one of the lighthouse jetties visible from Stewart Park and Allan H. Treman State Marine Park (AHTSMP) on 13 July. Tom Johnson found a lone "Western" Willet at Myers Park in Lansing on 13 July. Viewing from AHTSMP on 5 August, Dave Nutter found seven Willets together on one of the lighthouse jetties. This was an all-time high count for the species in Region 3. Finally, in late August, Jacob Johnson found a Whimbrel in a field in Dryden. This bird stayed for more than a week, gorging on grasshoppers and obliging many observers.

Region 3 also had its share of rare summer songbirds, especially in Tompkins County. Jay McGowan, Livia Santana, Shawn Billerman, and Brad Walker found and photographed a White-eyed Vireo at the Park Nature Preserve in Dryden on 12 July. Many observers managed to refind this bird over the following three days. Chris Wood, David Bell, and Brad Walker found a less-

cooperative Kentucky Warbler in Sapsucker Woods on 28 August. Regrettably, this bird did not reappear for other birders.

Chris Wood, Jessie Barry, Tom Johnson, and Ben Clock found and photographed two male Dickcissels at the Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve on 1 July. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana saw a male and female Dickcissel building a nest and copulating twice at this site on 4 July. Sightings of the species continued until at least 14 July.

Pine Siskins remained in the Region into the first few days of June, when Bill Baker and Ken Rosenberg logged sightings in the Ithaca area. The biggest winter-finch surprise of the season came much later, as Jay McGowan saw at least nine Red Crossbills in spruce trees in suburban northeast Ithaca on 24 August.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Paul Anderson, Bill Baker, Jessie Barry, David Bell, Shawn Billerman, Fritzie Blizzard, Joe Brin, Ken & Rose Burdick, Andrea Burke, Brad Carlson, Gary Chapin, John Confer, Candace Cornell, Susan Danskin, Jeff Gerbracht, John and Sue Gregoire, Mike Harvey, Wesley Hochachka, Lyn Jacobs, Jacob Johnson, Tom Johnson, Carol Keeler, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Tim Lenz, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Mark Miller, Ann Mitchell, Dave Nicosia, Dave Nutter, W. Douglas Robinson, Ken Rosenberg, Charlie and Lisa Rouse, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Livia Santana, Mickey Scilingo, Dominic Sherony, Laura Stenzler, Kathy Strickland, Jim Tarolli, Dave Tetlow, Mike and Joann Tetlow, Judy Thoroughman, Carolyn van Leer, Lee Ann van Leer, Brad Walker, Dave Wheeler, Mark Witmer, Chris Wood, Suan Yong, Ray Zimmerman.

ABBREVIATIONS

MNWR – Montezuma NWR; Myers – Myers Park, Lansing (Tompkins); StP – Stewart Park, Ithaca.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 StP 22 Jul (JM).

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 MNWR 19-20 Aug (JGK, DS, KM, JM, MS).

Greater Scaup: 2 Cayuga Lake 7 Aug (BM); 1 Cayuga Lake 27 Aug (BM, JC, JTar), only reports.

Little Blue Heron: 1 Woodville boat launch (YATE) 21 Jul (DT); 1 28 Jul MNWR (MT&JT, JTar).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1 MNWR 25 Jul–9 Aug (MM, JM, JBr)

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 FL Town of Ulysses (TOMP) 2-9 Jun (DNu), third consecutive year confirmed breeding at this site, breeding unusual outside of Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 6 MNWR 19 Aug (JGK).

Am. Avocet: 1 StP 13 Jul (TL).

WILLET (R3): 1 Myers 19 Jul (TJ); 7 StP 5 Aug (DNu, JM, KM), new high count for Region.

Upland Sandpiper: 4 FL Seneca Falls 21 Jul (DNi).

WHIMBREL (R3): 2 MNWR 9 Jun (AB); 1 Dryden (TOMP) 23-29 Aug (JJ, mob).

PHOTO GALLERY

Summer 2012



Dickcissel, Seneca Falls, *Seneca*, 4 Jul 2012, © Jay McGowan.



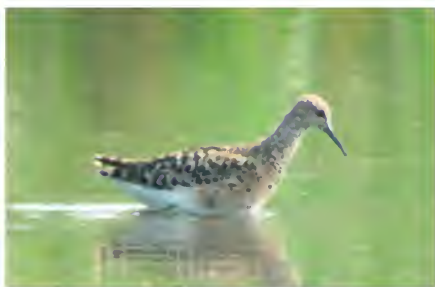
American Avocet and Caspian Terns, Ithaca, *Tompkins*, 13 Jul 2012, © Jay McGowan.



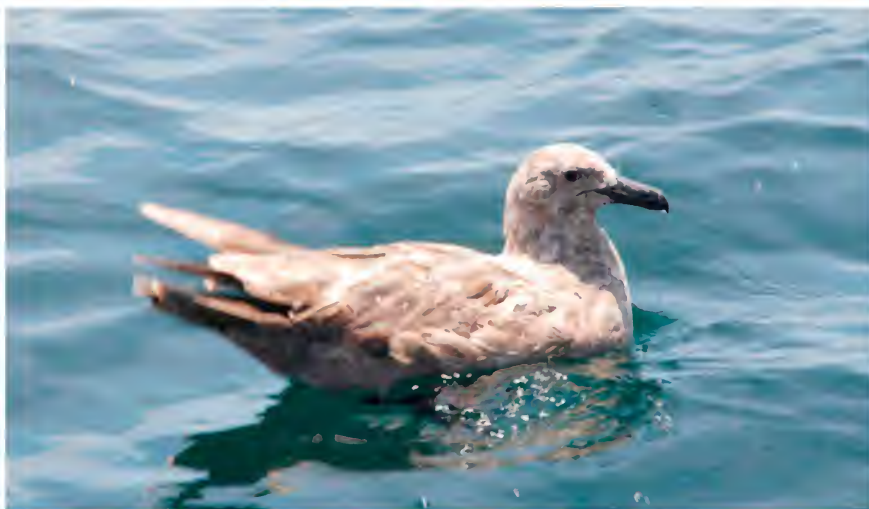
Common Mergansers, Oatka Creek Park, *Monroe*, 13 Jun 2012, © Jim Adams.



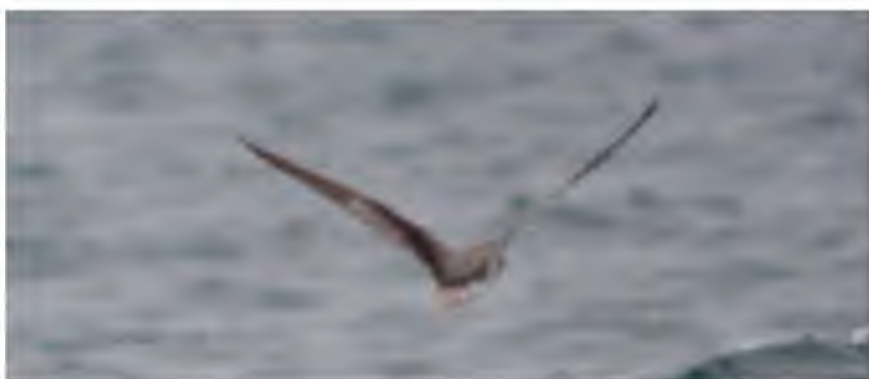
Curlew Sandpiper, Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 15 Jun, © S. S. Mitra.



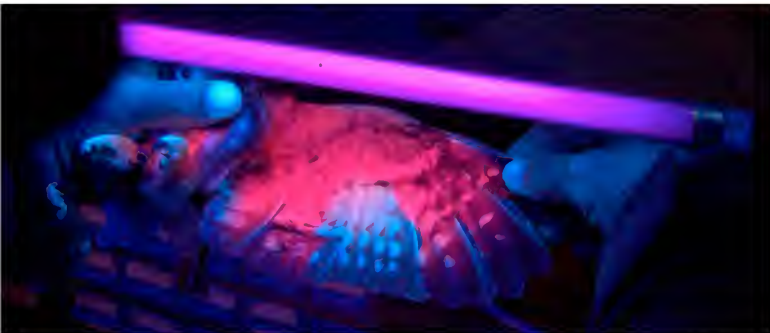
Three of four Ruffs observed at Jamaica Bay WR, *Queens*, during summer 2012; top, 1 Jul 2012, © Michael McBrien; lower left, 2 Aug 2012, © Michael McBrien; lower right 4 Jul 2012, © Andrew Baksh.



South Polar Skua, 26 miles south of Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 24 Jun, © Charlie Witek.



Fea's Petrel, 5 mi. se Montauk Pt., *Suffolk*, © Anthony Collerton. Potential first NYS record, pending review.



Northern Saw-whet Owls at Hammond Hill Owl Site, *Tompkins*: ready for release (top); awaiting banding (middle); and showing age-specific porphyrin fluorescence (bottom); see pp. 290-294 for article about HHOWLS.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: 1 MNWR 24-26 Jul (TJ, CW, JM); 1 MNWR 22 Aug (WDR); 1 MNWR 24 Aug (BC).

RUFF: 1 MNWR 24-25 Jun (W&MR, DW, JA, JT, mob!).

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 MNWR 6 Jun (MT&JT); 1 arr MNWR 20 Aug (DR).

Sanderling: max 5 MNWR 26 Jul (CC); 1 Myers 14 Aug (JM).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 700 MNWR 29 Jul (TL), high.

Least Sandpiper: max 800 MNWR 29 Jul (TL).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 24 MNWR 23 Aug (JM).

Baird's Sandpiper: max 7 MNWR 25 Aug (TL).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 300 MNWR 25 Aug (JM), high.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 25 MNWR 25 Aug (JM).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 4 Jun (JC); regular sightings of 1 or 2 MNWR 24 Jul thru.

Red-necked Phalarope: max 6 MNWR 17 Aug (TL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1 MNWR 18 Aug (DNU).

Caspian Tern: max 150 MNWR 14 Jul (JBr), high.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 King Road (SENE) 3 Jun (CW); 1 Ithaca 25 Jun (RZ); 1 Farley's Point (CAYU) thru 26 Aug (D&DS).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

White-eyed Vireo: 1 Park Nature Preserve (TOMP) 12-15 Jul (JM, LS, BW, SB, mob).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve (TOMP) 2 Jun (CW)

Prothonotary Warbler: 2 Armitage Road (SENE) 3 Jun (TL, JM, LS, BW, CW, TS, MH, GS), only report. More sightings just across the border in Region 2.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): 1 SW 28 Aug (DB, CW, BW).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 King Road (SENE) 24 Jun (LAVL, KM) and 2 Jul (BM, LS, SD).

Dickcissel: 1 Seneca Meadows 1-14 Jul (CW, JB, TJ, BC, mob!), confirmed breeding.

Bobolink: max 2500 MNWR 25 Aug (TL), high.

Pine Siskin: 2 Caroline (TOMP) 1 Jun (BB); 1 Ithaca 3 Jun (KR).

Red Crossbill: 9 Ithaca 24 Aug (JM), only report.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Precipitation for summer 2012 was typical for the Region, with a short wet spell in the beginning followed by dry periods through July. However, the June and July totals were almost exactly equal to normal levels. August had precipitation on the fewest days of the three months, but it totaled 2.3" above normal. As is typical for the season, there were extended dry periods, 58 out of the 92 days, interspersed with days of heavy rainfall that prevented the excessive drought problems experienced by the middle of the country.

Temperatures for June were almost exactly normal. July was hotter than normal, with 26 days above normal and 234 cooling degree-days compared to the normal 153. August was only slightly above normal temperatures. There

were five 90-degree days, two each in June and July and one in August. The highest temperature of 91° was in mid-July. All data is from the Binghamton weather station.

In summary, weather was fairly uneventful as a factor in reproduction or finding food for most species. Timing would probably have been the only way it would have been much of a factor. Shorebirds and wading species would have found ample feeding areas because of low water levels due to only normal rainfall but above normal temperatures in the middle part of the season.

The bird of the year for Region 4 could possibly be the **Red-headed Woodpecker** seen at the Robinette residence in Chenango Bridge, Broome County. Several observers were welcomed over two days to see and photograph it.

Wood Ducks seemed to be plentiful this year, with many sightings including some with high numbers. **American Black Ducks** were scarce, as usual, with only one observation. Two **Common Loons** were reported on the Whiney Point Reservoir in early June. One was reported to be in non-breeding plumage. It is not exceptional to have a summer season loon sighting in the Region, but it is not common (no pun intended). On the other hand, **Great Egrets** are commonly found, especially along the Susquehanna River from mid-season on, but not in the numbers that Marty Borko found at the Carantouan Greenway. The Greenway is in the very southwestern corner of Region 4 in Tioga County only a short distance from Pennsylvania and Chemung County. It is also only a short distance off I-86/Rt 17 at Exit 61 and is worth a stop for anyone traveling through the area. The website for the reserve is: <www.carantouangreenway.org/wildwoodreserve.html>. Further east in Owego, another location, a mile off Exit 65, is the Brick Pond, or as Dan Watkins suggested, “**Green Heron Pond**.” His observation of herons there far surpassed what was reported elsewhere in the Region.

Two **Osprey** were found at Canadarago Lake at the north end of Otsego County in late July, which might bring up speculation that nesting might have occurred nearby in Region 4 or just north of there in Region 5. Another Osprey in late August at Aquaterra Park in Broome County was probably an early migrant. **Bald Eagles** have become so common that many observers along the river valleys are seeing them as “yard birds”, sightings visible from their own homes. Reports of **Northern Harriers** were limited, as in past years.

There were four sightings of **Merlin**, one with successful breeding in Wilber Park, Oneonta, Otsego County, where they have reproduced before. Members of the Naturalist's Club of Broome County again observed nesting of **Peregrine Falcons** in downtown Binghamton, Broome County.

With lower water levels this year, marsh and shorebird observations returned to the usual numbers at the usual locations. A **Virginia Rail** was found throughout the season at the Carantouan Greenway. Areas along the Susquehanna River had the largest number of reports of shorebirds, especially near the Tri-cities airport west of Endicott, in the Town of Union, Broome County. One species found outside of the Susquehanna valley and observed for the first time in the last ten years was the **Upland Sandpiper** found by Matt

Young in Cortland. Tom Salo again was the only one in the Region to find a Wilson's Snipe, in the Town of Burlington west of Cooperstown, Otsego County. West of here, in the Town of Sherburne, Chenango County, Bill Purcell found the only **Common Gallinule**.

A post on the osbirds listserv questioned whether a lack of both cuckoos was correlated with a lack of tent caterpillars. A thread developed, with posts of observers seeing/hearing either **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** or **Black-billed Cuckoo**, but they also noticed the "dearth" of caterpillars. Two BBS routes in the northeastern part of the Region found neither species. Even though they are not expected to be common in our Region, reports of either species were few. A couple of years ago the forest tent caterpillar defoliated large areas of Otsego County, providing plenty of food during the nesting season. The cycle has swung the other way, reducing the food supply. The Eastern tent caterpillar population dropped off this year compounding the problem. Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "All About Birds" states: "Their populations fluctuate considerably from year to year as the birds move from place to place following outbreaks of prey. This variability makes it difficult to determine whether their overall numbers show a trend upward or downward. Several regional (statewide) estimates suggest that populations are declining, however."

A pair of **Barred Owls** had two young in Chenango Valley SP in Broome County. After fledging, the young were found along one of the trails for many days providing many reports and submissions of photographs. Observations of the **Common Nighthawk** were up this year but still were low in numbers. **Chimney Swifts** were spotted in many locations, but the numbers are not much different from last year. The number of eBird reports and total numbers were about the same. The maximum number of 26 reported is a far cry from single sightings of 200-300 or more during the last ten years.

The **Purple Martin** colony west of Owego on Rte. 17C still exists, but the numbers are down considerably. They were reported from only one other location. A **Bank Swallow** colony was located just outside CVSP. Anne Clark posted the following about it on the Binghamton area listserve: "Around 5 p.m., went to Chenango Valley State Park to make another attempt at watching and photographing Bank Swallows. It clouded up, sprinkled, and, despite a few sun breaks, David and I were gathering to go when a mink wended its way along the edge of the water below the bank of nest holes. Suddenly and purposefully it made its way up the clay bank, slithered along the horizontal clay lines between rows of holes, found a large enough one and disappeared inside. Swallows were swarming and mobbing and moments later, it backed out, with an adult swallow in its jaws. Down the bank and under a large downed tree trunk it went, where I couldn't see. But apparently it killed and deposited the swallow, because it reappeared, made another assault on the bank, tumbling down it twice in a shower of dry dirt. It looked into a hole or two, but never went into another. After the second tumble, it shook itself off and went to its trunk, recovered the swallow and trotted on west around the margins of the tributary and out of sight." Christopher Holden found that a 12 August canoe trip on the Delaware

River was properly timed for his sighting of 500 **Cedar Waxwings**. He reported that they were “lining the river for six miles in vast numbers.”

The NYSDEC Pharsalia Woods Unit Management Plan <<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/67631.html>> encompasses five forest units totaling 13,622 acres of land in northern Chenango County. Part of the area has been designated as the Pharsalia Important Bird Area. Warblers, thrushes, kinglets, and crossbills, missing from most of Region 4 during the summer, can be found there. New Michigan State Forest is made up two of the units. Dave Nicosia and Bill Purcell separately birded there in June. The numbers that each saw were impressive, as can be seen in the species accounts. Matt Young scouted Bucks Brook SF nearby to find his **Red Crossbills**. Their findings show that the State Forests in that area are worth a day trip.

Bobolinks were still showing reduced numbers. The maximum of 20 seen was a low number compared with a few years ago. Last year a total of ten **Eastern Meadowlarks** was observed in seven sightings reported to eBird. This year there were 13 sightings, with a total of 33. Whether this is a real improvement or not is open to speculation, but at least it is not worse.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dawn & Mike Ackley, Diane Allison, Marty Borko, Sandy Bright, Rafael Campos-Ramirez, Anne Clark, Louise Gomez, Scott Hierbaum, Christopher Holden, Marshall Iliff, Maggie Jewett, Stefan Karkuff, William Kuk, Angela Lu Russo, Michele Lyman, Dave McCartt, Naturalist's Club of Broome County (NCBC), Dave Nicosia, Bill Purcell, Randy Ross, Tom Salo, Charles Scheim, Dan Watkins, Jon Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bing – Binghamton, BROO; BPd – Boland Pond, BROO; CL – Canadarago Lake, OTSE; CGW – Carantouan Greenway, Waverly, TIOG; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP, BROO; BWDSP – Betty & Wilbur Davis SP, T Middlefield, OTSE; EHR – Edwards Hill Rd., TL, BROO; End – Endicott, BROO; HMF – Heiburg Memorial Forest, CORT; NMSF – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; TCA – Tri-cities Airport, BROO; TL – Town of Lisle, BROO; TS – Town of Sherburne, CHEN; TU – Town of Union, BROO; TV – Town of Vesta, BROO; WPWMUA – Whitney Point Wildlife Multiple Use Area, BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Wood Duck: 18 TS CHEN 23 Jun; 20 BPd BROO 5 Aug; 29 Bainbridge CHEN 6 Aug; 30 BROO 22 Aug.

Am. Black Duck: 10 TU BROO 1 Aug (GW), only report.

Com. Loon: 2 WPWMUA BROO 19, 22 Jun.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 15 WPWMUA BROO 29 Aug.

Great Egret: max 26 CGW TIOG 26 Jul (MB); many other single reports.

Green Heron: max 15 Brick Pd Owego TIOG 18 Jul.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 2 CL OTSE 24 Jul; Aquaterra Pk BROO 28 Aug; only reports.
Bald Eagle: max 3 Delaware R DELA 12 Aug; many throughout Region; doing well.
N. Harrier: TS CHEN 21 Jun, 16 Aug; T Barton TIOG 25 Aug.
Cooper's Hawk: 2 ad, 2 y T Windsor BROO 20 Jun.
N. Goshawk: Somerset L T Hancock DELA 20 Jun, 6 Aug.
Am. Kestrel: 13 TL BROO 16 Aug; few reports.
MERLIN (R4): Bing BROO 6 Jun (DW); 2 ad 2 y Wilber Pk Oneonta OTSE 7, 14 Jul (SB, CS); BWDSP OTSE 24 Aug (LG); CL OTSE 30 Aug (TS).
PEREGRINE FALCON (R4): CO Bing BROO 13 Jun.
Virginia Rail: CGW TIOG 6 Jun, 29 Jul, 23, 25 Aug (MB), only report.
Com. Gallinule: TS CHEN 16 Jun, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: TV BROO 2 Jun (DW).
Semipalmated Plover: TU BROO 5 Jun, only rep.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 9 TV BROO 2 Jun.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Bainbridge CHEN 6 Aug; 3 TCA BROO 13 Aug; 2 TCA BROO 16 Aug; only rep of multiples.
Upland Sandpiper: Cortland CORT 27 Jul (MY), only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 15 TCA BROO 28 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: Bing BROO 25 Aug, only rep.
Wilson's Snipe: T Burlington OTSE 30 Jun, only report.
Am. Woodcock: 5 BWDSP T Middlefield OTSE 22 Jul; few reports.
Caspian Tern: TV BROO 14, 18 Jul, only rep.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: TS CHEN 20 Jun; T Fenton BROO 22 Aug; T Dickinson BROO 22 Aug; few reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: T Richford TIOG 23 Jun; 7 other single reports.
Barred Owl: 2 ad, 2 y CVSP BROO Jun - mid Jul (mob).
Com. Nighthawk: max 40 End BROO 16 Aug (DN); 20 End BROO 20 Aug (MA); few reports.
Chimney Swift: max 26 TV BROO 2 Jun; few multiple reports.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R4): Chenango Bridge BROO 12, 13 Jun (mob), only report.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 8 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun.
Least Flycatcher: max 6 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun.
E. Kingbird: max 50 EHR TL BROO 16 Aug (DW).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun.
Purple Martin: max 4 T Tioga TIOG 7 Aug (JW) Jul; 2 Cortland CORT 11 Aug; only reports, doing poorly.
Bank Swallow: max 35 CVSP BROO 26 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4 CL OTSE 4 Jul; 2 CVSP BROO 30 Jun; TL BROO 19 Aug; only reports.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 27 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN); 10 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun (BP).
Swainson's Thrush: 4 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun; Cherry Ridge Wild Forest DELA 19 Aug; only reports.
N. Mockingbird: max 5 BROO 12 Jun (D&MA); few reports.
Cedar Waxwing: 500 Delaware R DELA 12 Aug (CH).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 76 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN); 32 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun (BP).
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 8 Jones Pk TV BROO 20 Jun.
N. Waterthrush: max 3 HMF CORT 17 Jun.
Nashville Warbler: 2 T Richford TIOG 2 Jun, only report.
Mourning Warbler: max 13 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN); 4 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun (BP).
Hooded Warbler: 2 TS OTSE CHEN 21 Jun, only report.
N. Parula: CVSP BROO 28 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: max 44 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN); 6 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun (BP).
Blackburnian Warbler: max 52 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 7 NMSF CHEN 7 Jun (DN); 5 NMSF CHEN 16 Jun (BP).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: max 12 EHR TL BROO 20 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: max 5 CGW TIOG 7 Jun.
Bobolink: max 20 EHR TL BROO 20 Jun.
E. Meadowlark: 15 EHR TL BROO 20 Jun; 10 Arnold Hill Rd TL BROO 16 Aug.
Pine Siskin: max 9 Cortland CORT 10 Jun (RR).
Red Crossbill: 15 Bucks Brook SF CHEN 11 Aug (MY).

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was hot and dry, with temperatures at the Syracuse airport ranging from two to five degrees F above normal per month, and rainfall at least one inch below normal for each month. In June the average temperature was 68.8° F, 2.1° above normal, with 2.28" of precipitation, 1.03" below normal. In July the temperature averaged 76.2°, 4.9° above normal, and 1.84" of rain was 1.94" below normal. For August the average temperature was 73.0°, 3.2° above normal, with 2.27" of precipitation, 1.30" below normal.

The heat and lack of moisture led to shriveled underbrush in many areas. The cone crop was generally poor, and Gary Lee reported that the overall food crop was poor in the Adirondacks. The water level in the northern section of Utica Marsh was drawn down by the DEC causing, at least for this year, loss of habitat for Pied-billed Grebes and rails. Common Loon is doing fine in the Adirondacks, and they were helped by a more consistent water level on Stillwater Reservoir this year. Shorebird habitat was mostly good this season, with low water levels at Lake Ontario, Delta Lake, and Salmon River Reservoir, which all had extensive sandbars or mudflats. The Region's sod farm was again planted mostly with beans and corn.

The usual handful of Snow Geese lingered through the season, while a Greater White-fronted Goose was not expected. Trumpeter Swans hatched six young in Volney, though one soon disappeared, for the first successful Regional breeding. Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Northern Pintail were the less common dabblers seen, while Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Common Goldeneye were the unusual divers. A Red-throated Loon in alternate plumage stopped on Onondaga Lake for about a week.

With good habitat at Delta Lake this year, Great Egret numbers were up. Black-crowned Night-Herons spent the summer in a wetland in Volney and breeding was presumed but not proven. A young Glossy Ibis was found in a drying wetland in southern Herkimer County along with two Sandhill Cranes and a good variety of shorebirds.

Spring Hawk migration continues into June. This year the flight was moderate at best, but a Swainson's Hawk remained at Derby Hill for several hours in June apparently hunting in the nearby hayfields as they were being harvested. Secretive species such as Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Sora were reported more frequently than in past years, although that's mostly due to active searching.

A single American Golden-Plover was found. While an Upland Sandpiper was heard over Derby Hill in late July, presumably southbound, they were reported from only one breeding location. With frequent visits to Sandy Pond this season,

several Whimbrel were noted, but Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot numbers were low. Sandy Pond also attracted White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers plus a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Short-billed Dowitcher was widespread in low numbers. Louise Gomez found 11 Red-necked Phalaropes in Herkimer County. At least three were breeding-plumaged females in the flock that was spinning and feeding after being grounded by a storm. The phalaropes soon began taking off, but Gomez was able to photograph one of the females.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in areas of Oneida and Madison Counties close to both Oneida Lake and the Madison County Landfill. Black Tern seemed to depart early, with no August reports. Caspian Tern numbers were up, with an apparent increase in the nesting population on Little Galloo Island in Region 6. An adult Sandwich Tern, first seen in late July at Sandy Pond, was a rare upstate record. The tern often mixed with Caspian Terns making it difficult to find, but it remained through the season steadily molting its black cap. A single jaeger was too far off to be sure of its species at Oswego Harbor in late August.

Our Yellow-billed Cuckoo population has declined sharply with the lack of tent caterpillars, and even Black-billed Cuckoo numbers have dropped somewhat. Long-eared Owl was the only uncommon owl reported. No Common Nighthawks were found during the breeding season, but August migrants were widespread in low numbers. Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at only one location. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migrants were reported in August, and Red-breasted Nuthatch seemed to be on the move in large numbers. Two Swainson's Thrushes were early migrants in late August.

Golden-winged Warbler was reported at only a single location, a mid-August Palm Warbler had already moved away from breeding territories, and small influxes of Magnolia and Yellow-rumped warblers in Syracuse were early migrants. Cape May, Tennessee, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's warblers were all being seen in August.

A female Dickcissel was found in suitable habitat but there was no evidence of breeding. Red Crossbills were reported at Morgan Hill State Forest, and one flew over Derby Hill late in the season. A few Pine Siskins lingered through June, and two wandering Evening Grosbeaks were also seen in June.

For the season a total of 214 species was reported, 13 more than the most recent 10 year average. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Glossy Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Sandwich Tern, and Dickcissel.

As a final note, this is my last report as Region 5 editor; Matt Perry and Dave Wheeler are the new Regional editors. Thanks to all for your contributions over the past sixteen years.

[And many thanks to you, Bill, for all your work over this time in writing all these reports!! A big job very well done! –Regional Reports Editor & Editor]

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; CCr – Columbia Center; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; Dvl – Durhamville; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: SPd 17 Aug (BP).
Snow Goose: 3 singles Jun; 2 Sherrill 14 Jul.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 5 y Volney, first breeding evidence in Reg.
Wood Duck: max 194 Verona 18 Aug.
Gadwall: OneiL 1 Jun; SPd 3 Aug.
Am. Wigeon: 3 Aug singles.
Blue-winged Teal: max 50 DL after 25 Aug.
N. Shoveler: Woodman Pd 29 Aug.
N. Pintail: DL 23 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2 WM 2 Jun; max 50 SPd 31 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: Williamstown 16 Jun; Oswego 30 Aug.
Lesser Scaup: Bradley Brook Res 7 Jun.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Oswego 28 Aug.
Com. Goldeneye: Oswego 19 Jul.
Hooded Merganser: max 32 DL 19 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: last Hamilton 7 Jun.
N. Bobwhite: 6 GSC 11 Aug, survivors of released birds.
Red-throated Loon: OnonL 25-28 Jul (KB, mob).
Com. Loon: 6 sites outside Adks.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 12 DL 23 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 730 OnonL 29 Aug.
Am. Bittern: UM 7, 16 Jun, where absent in recent years.

Least Bittern: Williamstown, Volney, Chittenango, and UM; 4 y UM 7 Jun.
Great Egret: max 10 DL 12 Aug.
Green Heron: max 31 Volney 23 Jun.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 Volney 1 Aug; OnonL & SPd in Aug.
Glossy Ibis: CCr 23 Jul into Aug (LG, mob).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 2 DH 11 Jun; 4 reports breeding areas.
Bald Eagle: max 28 DH 17 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 127 DH 11 Jun.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: DH 18 Jun (TC, BP, ph NYSARC).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 152 DH 11 Aug.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 SPd 26 Aug & 2 DL 29 Aug.
Virginia Rail: 7 sites.
Sora: 4 sites.
Com. Gallinule: max 21 Volney 25 Jul.
Sandhill Crane: 2 CCr after 24 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: max 18 WM 1 Jun; last WM 5 Jun; arr 1 SPd 30 Jul.
Am. Golden Plover: DL 20 Aug, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 WM 5 Jun; arr 2 Kirkville 7 Jul; max 50 SPd 15 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Volney 2 Jul; max 14 CCr 27 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr & max 8 CCr 5 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 WM 2 Jun; arr Marcellus 3 Jul; max 27 DL 19 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: migrant DH 29 Jul; Fulton only breeding site report.
Whimbrel: SPd 3, 7 Aug; 2 SPd 26 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 25 Jul; 4 reports.
Red Knot: arr & max 2 SPd 15 Aug.
Sanderling: arr & max 15 SPd 25 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 9 SPd 10 Jun; arr SPd 10 Jul; max 80 DL 10 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: last WM 2 Jun; arr Volney 6 Jul; max 75 DL 29 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: SPd 10 Jun; arr & max 2 Marcellus 21 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 2 per day DL, Skan & SPd after 15 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SPd 25 Jul; max 12 SPd 15 Aug.
Dunlin: last SPd 10 Jun; 5 SPd 18 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr SPd 10 Jul; max 4 DL 26 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: SPd 23-26 Aug (KB).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CCR 5 Jul; max 3 SPd 17-23 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: 11 T CCR 26 Jul (LG! ph).
Bonaparte's Gull: SPd 10 Jun; max 100 SVB 28 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 SL & 1 SVB 8 Jun; SVB 5 Jul.
Caspian Tern: max 286 SPd 17 Aug.
Black Tern: 7 Oneil 2 Jun; max 15 SPd 25 Jul.
SANDWICH TERN: ad. SPd after 25 Jul (MSt, BP, ph NYSARC). **first Reg record.**
jaeger sp: Oswego 28 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 12 sites thru.
Black-billed Cuckoo: reports from 25+ sites.
Long-eared Owl: TR 2 Jun (DW, JT).
Com. Nighthawk: max 5 per day after 12 Aug.
E. Whip-poor-will: Constantia, Salisbury & TR in Jun.
Chimney Swift: max 346 Oneida 13 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Lysander thru Jun, only site.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Salisbury 7 Jun, edge of Adks.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Salisbury 5 Aug; N Syr 25 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr N Syr 25 Aug.
Acadian Flycatcher: Whiskey Hollow only.
Fish Crow: Syr, Skan, & DH in Jun.
Purple Martin: max 250 WM 17 Aug.
Barn Swallow: max 700 WM 17 Aug.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: migr after 15 Aug.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: migr after 12 Aug.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 Dvl 24 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: only 1 site.
Prothonotary Warbler: WM in Jun.
Tennessee Warbler: arr TR 6 Aug (DW), early.
Mourning Warbler: migr 16, 26 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: Syr 25 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hastings 18 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: W Winfield 5 Jun (KZ), unusual there.
N. Parula: Camden 1 Jun, late; arr 2 TR 22 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Hastings 20 Aug; max 8 Syr 25 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Mexico 28 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr CM 29 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Pulaski 13 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Dvl 20 Aug.
Palm Warbler: Old Forge 16 Aug.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr OnonL 24 Aug; max 8 OnonL 27 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: f feeding y T Nelson 8 Jul; 2 Erieview 28 Aug.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Syr 26 Aug.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Syr 25 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Hastings 20 Aug; max 4 Syr 26 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Fairfield 24 Aug.
DICKCISSEL (R5): Camillus 26-27 Jun (PR, mob).
Com. Grackle: max 2400 WM 17 Aug.
Orchard Oriole: SPd 3 Jun; DH 11 Jun; last Waterville 16 Aug.
Red Crossbill: 2 Fabius 11 Aug; DH 27 Aug.
Pine Siskin: small numbers to 1 Jul.
Evening Grosbeak: Hamilton & Skan in Jun.



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer was warm and a little dry. In Watertown, all three months were at least 2° F warmer than average, with the greatest departure from normal coming in July, which was 3.8° above normal. Precipitation was 0.7" and 0.9" below average for June and July, respectively, but August is usually the wettest month of the summer, and the 3.8" of rain that fell this August was within 0.1" of normal.

For the most part waterfowl were present in typical numbers, but there were a few unusual species. At least four adult Trumpeter Swans were at Perch River throughout the summer, but for the first time in many years no juveniles were detected. Also at Perch River was a single Snow Goose on 2 June, the last of a series of late individual Snow Geese in Region 6. Also unusual for summer were two groups of White-winged Scoters on the St. Lawrence River, including an amazing 16 at Barnhart Island on 11 August. Two adult female Common Goldeneye in Waddington on 26 August were likely from the small New York/southern Ontario breeding population, as this date is at least 6-8 weeks early for northern migrants.

The only true rarity of the summer was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** that Bill Munro observed on the St. Lawrence River in Clayton on 19 July. Bill soon learned that the whistling-duck was visiting a house along the shore where it was joining a group of Mallards being fed grain twice daily. Apparently the whistling-duck first showed up in early July and was present for the rest of the summer, although I am aware of no birders that looked for it after the beginning of August. The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was very tame, allowing close approach, but its apparent arrival date coincided with a number of other reports from the northeastern United States, suggesting a similar origin.

This spring and summer were the first in several years that were not cool and wet, and the dry conditions seemed to result in good reproduction for waterfowl and early ground-nesting birds. Good productivity data are lacking for species such as Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock, but anecdotal observations suggested that reproduction was relatively good. On 9 June Chris Wood saw a Gray Partridge on Dog Hill Road at the edge of Perch River WMA, where there have been no reports in many years. In fact there have been no Gray Partridge reports in Region 6 during the past 5-6 years, and this species was thought to be extirpated from the Region. For these reasons, the Perch River partridge is probably a recent release or escapee.

Exceptional counts were made for several species of colonial water birds, mostly by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation biologists. The official nest count for Double-crested Cormorants on Little Galloo Island was 1,631, which is the lowest count since 1986, reflecting the results of continued cormorant-control measures. In contrast, the 2,332 Caspian

Tern nests is a record high count for Little Galloo Island and for New York, exceeding the previous high count set last year by about 400 nests. More Herring Gull nests were also counted on the island compared with recent years, but the Ring-billed Gull nest count was within the range of past years. Common Terns also had a banner year, with 1,394 nests on the St. Lawrence River, representing continuing increases in response to management funded by the New York Power Authority.

Sandhill Cranes were observed throughout the summer in and near Lakeview WMA in Jefferson County and the Lisbon Swamp in St. Lawrence County, where they have been suspected to nest for several years. As has generally been the case, no young were observed, nor was nesting documented. During mid-summer cranes were reported by many non-birders in Canton near Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, but it is not clear if these are different birds from those seen at Lisbon Swamp.

For the past decade or so local birders have come up with a variety of explanations for the substantial decline in migrant shorebird numbers and diversity along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Jefferson County. Among the most frequently cited explanations has been management for high water levels for recreational boating and power generation, leaving little shorebird habitat exposed during summer and early fall. With this in mind, unusually low water levels on Lake Ontario this summer had area birders anticipating an improvement in the local shorebirding. On 10 July David Wheeler and Jim Tarolli visited El Dorado where a nice assortment of migrants included five Sanderling still in breeding plumage, a sight rarely seen in Region 6, contributing to the sense that this was going to be a good year. Unfortunately, shorebird numbers were not any higher than they have been in recent years, and many visits to El Dorado in particular turned up very few individuals, although diversity was marginally better than the 10-year average. Notable shorebirds included a Ruddy Turnstone on a concrete navigation cell in the St. Lawrence River in early June and two Whimbrel, two Baird's Sandpipers, and four Red-necked Phalaropes in August, all at El Dorado except for one of the phalaropes, which was at the Canton sewage ponds.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers finally appear to be returning to historically typical levels, many years after the end of a tent caterpillar outbreak resulted in a region-wide population spike. Still, the five reports from this summer would have been deemed exceptional 10 years ago. Black-billed Cuckoo numbers were higher than last summer, but still seemed lower than most years. Jacob Berl, a graduate student studying Red-headed Woodpeckers on Fort Drum, found 15 territories that seemed to represent 14 pairs and one unpaired male.

It was another poor year for grassland birds in Region 6. Four or five pairs of Upland Sandpipers on Fort Drum were more than have been seen on the installation for the past few years, but there was only one report away from Fort Drum. It was also a down year for Sedge Wrens, with seven individuals reported from three locations. Henslow's Sparrows were barely present this summer, with no more than two individuals each at Fort Drum and Perch River. The eventual

disappearance of Henslow's Sparrow from Region 6 and New York seems increasingly inevitable without a large-scale effort to manage habitat for this species.

Surveys on Fort Drum show an accelerating increase in Blue-winged Warbler numbers, with Golden-winged Warblers accounting for a decreasing percentage of the total "winged warbler" population. These surveys also indicated that for the first time, Blue-winged Warblers clearly outnumbered Golden-wings on Fort Drum. In contrast, just a few miles north of Fort Drum, Steve Kelling and Brian Sullivan found 19 Golden-winged Warblers and no Blue-winged Warblers in the Indian River Lakes area of northern Jefferson County.

Other passerines of note include a rare August Louisiana Waterthrush on Fort Drum and three Orchard Orioles, of which two were territorial males and one a migrant. Pine Siskins were reported from all portions of Region 6, but White-winged Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were largely or entirely restricted to the Adirondacks and Tug Hill.

For the season I received reports of 204 species, tying a modern record high set in 2011. The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was the clear highlight of the summer, although to some its lack of wariness was a little disconcerting. After early promise, the shorebird migration was disappointing, but the summer's biggest disappointment was the continuing decline in numbers of Upland Sandpipers and Henslow's Sparrows.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena; CWF – Canton wastewater facility; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; LWMA – Lakeview WMA, T Ellisburg; MM – Massawepie Mire, T's Piercefield and Colton; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt. Peninsula; SLGW – St. Lawrence Grasslands & Wetlands Management District refuge and headquarters, T Dekalb; SLR – St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, T Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 19
Jul thru (mob, reports to NYSARC), *intro*.

Snow Goose: PRWMA 2 Jun (AC, BvD).
Trumpeter Swan: At least 4 ad but no reports
of y PRWMA thru; 2 ULLWMA thru.

Wood Duck: max 265 WHWMA 2 Aug.
Am. Black Duck: max 22 WHWMA 18 Aug.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 PRWMA 2 Jun & 2 T Copenhagen 7 Jun, only reports before mid-Jul; max 85 SLGW 31 Aug.
N. Shoveler: WHWMA 4 Jun, only report before Aug; 1-2/day CWF 17 Aug thru.
N. Pintail: WHWMA 18 Aug, only report.
Green-winged Teal: only 1 report before late Jul; max 35 SLGW 31 Aug.
Redhead: BI 27 Jun, only report before Aug; max 133 WHWMA 29 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: max 47 ULLWMA 25 Aug.
Lesser Scaup: 2 PRWMA 27 Jul; 2 WHWMA 15 Aug.
White-winged Scoter: 3 imm SLR Clayton 23 Jul; 16 BI 11 Aug, an exceptional tally for summer (HvZ).
Com. Goldeneye: 2 SLR Waddington 26-28 Aug.
Com. Merganser: max 26 ED 15 Jul.
Red-breasted Merganser: 4 SLR Massena 25 Jul, only report.
Gray Partridge: PRWMA 9 Jun (CW), no reports from this location in many years, suggesting recent release or escape.
Ruffed Grouse: dry weather during nesting season appeared to result in better reproduction than previous 2 yrs.
Wild Turkey: seemed to be more abundant than recent years.
Com. Loon: max 12 Chippewa Bay 15 Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: high counts incl: 79 WHWMA 2 Aug; 41 Allen Pool PRWMA 19 Aug; 86 Lower Lake ULLWMA 25 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1631 nests LGL.
Am. Bittern: max 11 Ashland Flats WMA 11 Aug.
Least Bittern: rep from PRWMA, WHWMA & FD.
Great Blue Heron: 5 rookeries FD, the largest with 22 successful nests.
Great Egret: max 58 WS 3 Aug.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 44 nests Gull Is.
Turkey Vulture: max 43 ED 19 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 15 Alexandria Bay 17 Jun.
N. Goshawk: juv in nest T Stockholm 3 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 17 FD 5 Jun.
Com. Gallinule: 12 Kring Pt. Rd. T Alexandria 9 Aug; 13 Stone Mills Pool PRWMA 19 Aug; high counts.
Am. Coot: PRWMA 2-9 Jun, rare in summer.
Sandhill Crane: multiple reports of suspected nesting prs LWMA & Lisbon Swamp, where nesting strongly suspected recent years; multiple

reports pr Canton near ULLWMA Jul & Aug but not clear whether new pr or same as Lisbon Swamp birds. No indication of successful nesting from any site.

Black-bellied Plover: last ED 10 Jun; arr PtPen 16 Aug; max 9 PtPen 28 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: FD 29 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: arr ED 15 Jul; max 5 SLGW 28 Aug.
Killdeer: max 18 ED 15 Jul.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 ED 10 Jul & CWF 31 Jul-17 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: last ED 3 Jun; arr Canton 9 Jul; max 9 SLGW 25 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr ED 10 Jul; max 4 SLGW 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CWF 9 Jul; max 11 ED 21 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Millens Bay CV 16-17 Jun; max 14 FD 17 Jul, at least 4-5 pr.
Whimbrel: 2 ED 30 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: on concrete navigation cell SLR Massena 2 Jun.
Sanderling: 5 arr ED 10 Jul, where 2 still present 15 Jul, only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last CWF 4 Jun; arr ED 15 Jul; max 6 LWMA 30 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr ED 10 Jul; max 24 LWMA 30 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: 2 ED 22 Aug, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 SLGW 31 Aug, only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: PtPen 28 Aug, only report.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3 ED 19 Aug; CWF 24-26 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr ED 18 Jul; max 6 T Henderson 20 Aug, low.
Ring-billed Gull: 43324 nests LGL.
Herring Gull: 512 nests LGL.
Com. Tern: 1394 nests SLR, all but 19 on NYS side river, modern record high.
Caspian Tern: 2332 nests LGL, record high.
Black Tern: many reports PRWMA, but reliable high count lacking; 8 incl. 1 nest Renshaw Bay T Ellisburg 3 Jun; 8 Wilson's Bay CV 17 Jun; max 48 ULLWMA 9 Jul; 3 LWMA 11 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 5 rep; numbers lower than any year since massive tent caterpillar outbreak 2002-2005.
Black-billed Cuckoo: more than 2011, although numbers still lower than many years.
E. Screech-Owl: max 4 T Leyden 18 Jun.
Barred Owl: 4 y in single brood Cranberry Lake mid-Jul.
N. Saw-whet Owl: FD 3 Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: 5-15/day FD Jun & Jul; PRWMA 10 Jul, only Jun or Jul report away from FD; widespread migratory movement noted 23 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: max 35 on 10-stop survey route FD 8 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 15 terr FD thru.

Black-backed Woodpecker: multiple reports MM.

Merlin: expansion continues; reports from all portions of Region.

Peregrine Falcon: pr Long Sault Dam thru.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 3 T Fine 10 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 MM 8 Jul, low.

E. Kingbird: max 24 French Creek WMA 14 Aug.

Gray Jay: max 10 MM 17 Aug.

Purple Martin: max 28 T Alexandria 9 Aug.

Bank Swallow: y still in at least 2 nest holes LWMA 30 Jul.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 in single flock ad & juv FD 19 Jun.

Sedge Wren: 5 terr m FD incl. 3 continuing from May & 2 arr Jul (JB); ULLWMA 10 Jul (AC); LWMA 30 Jul (JB).

Marsh Wren: max 30 PRWMA 2 Jun, where a thorough survey would likely reveal many more.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: LWMA & PRWMA, only breeding reports; migrants FD 15, 17, & 22 Aug; ED 19 Aug.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: no reports away from Adirondacks or Tug Hill.

N. Mockingbird: 9+ terr FD, high; Chaumont 16 Jun, only report away from FD.

Swainson's Thrush: migrant ED 22 Aug.

Am. Pipit: 2 FD 23 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 CWF 10 Aug.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Louisiana Waterthrush: apparent migrant FD 13 Aug, although suitable habitat within 1 mile.

Golden-winged Warbler: 19 on and after Indian River Lakes BBS route 19 Jun (SK, BS); 56 singing m on Fort Drum surveys.

Blue-winged Warbler: none on and after Indian River Lakes BBS route 19 Jun; 79 singing m on Fort Drum surveys.

Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler hybrid: 31 singing m on FD surveys incl 4 "Lawrence's" Warblers.

Tennessee Warbler: arr FD 21 Aug; max 15+ FD 29 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: FD 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: at least 4 terr Grindstone Is.

N. Parula: ED 18 Jul, only report outside Adirondacks.

Bay-breasted Warbler: ICNC 25 Aug; Five Ponds Wilderness 26 Aug; 2 FD 27 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: migrants FD by 15 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last T Copenhagen 9 Jun; arr FD 30 Aug.

Palm Warbler: max 18 MM 8 Jul; additional breeding reports Hitchens Bog; arr ICNC 25 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 11 singing m FD 1 Jun.

Canada Warbler: 4-12/day in wet second growth forest FD Jun & Jul.

Wilson's Warbler: FD 28, 29 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 36 singing m FD 23 Jun.

Vesper Sparrow: max 22 in single group FD 13 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 20 singing m FD 22 Jun; 8 reports from lowland areas away from FD, high for recent years.

Henslow's Sparrow: 1-2/day Dog Hill Rd PRWMA Jun & Jul; scarce FD thru; probably record low.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 18 MM 8 Jul.

Dark-eyed Junco: FD 1 Jul, only report outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

Bobolink: migrants conspicuous by 23 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: terr ad m FD 8 Jun, continuing from May; 1st year m PRWMA 9 Jun; migrating WHWMA 18 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: sev rep 1-2/day Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

Pine Siskin: scattered rep 1-2/day.

Evening Grosbeak: FD 20 Jun, only report outside Adirondacks & Tug Hill.

ADDENDUM:

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: WHWMA 31 MAY (TL), could not be relocated.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The summer of 2012 was well suited to outdoor recreational activities in the Region, with slightly above normal temperatures and below average precipitation. June temperatures were 0-1° above normal, beginning with the coldest day dropping to 38° in Newcomb on the 1st and reaching as high as 94° in Peru on the 21st. July's temperatures were 2-3° higher than normal, though the highest temperature in the Region was only 93° in Peru on the 14th, which was far from record-breaking. Precipitation in July ranged 0-2" below average in most of the Region, though Indian Lake and Newcomb received above average rainfall for the month. August temperatures again ranged 1-2° above average, with the hottest days being the 4th and 5th, when temperatures reached 90° in Tupper Lake and 95° in Peru. On the 29 August the temperature dipped to 37° in Lake Placid. Precipitation for the month was 1-2" below average throughout the Region. The lack of snow in the winter and below average rain for spring and summer led to poor production of berries and mast throughout the Region, no doubt creating hardship for the birds and animals that depend on these food sources.

Shorebird migration was well documented at Chazy Riverlands into early June and again at the end of August. Early June saw modest numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitchers. June highlights included a fallout of 63 Black-bellied Plovers on 3 June, and a **Little Gull** on 3 & 9 June. The end of August brought more of the same species, but also included a juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** on 24 August, which was only the fourth record for Clinton County and the second consecutive summer with a record. Other August shorebird sightings in the Region included three Pectoral Sandpipers at Ausable Point on 15 August and Solitary Sandpipers at Kings Bay on 9 August and Lake Alice on 18 August.

Waterfowl numbers also picked up at the end of August, with 30 Gadwall, 34 Common Mergansers, and three Blue-winged Teal reported from Ausable Point on 24 August. An immature Long-tailed Duck was spotted there on 15 August, which is early for this species. On the topic of waterbirds, good numbers of Caspian Terns were reported from Lake Champlain this summer, including two juveniles at Kings Bay on 31 August. There was only one report each for both Common and Black Terns for the period, which is discouraging but may simply be a result of lack of birders visiting their usual breeding areas.

While terns may have been overlooked, there were a good number of reports of nocturnal bird species, which are typically underreported. An Eastern Screech-Owl was heard at Ausable Point on 20 & 21 July. Eastern Whip-poor-wills were reported in good numbers from the Miner Flat Rock area, including two juveniles on 6 August, as well as from Ausable Chasm, Port Kent, and Jay.

Common Nighthawks were also reported in good numbers, with 11 at Miner on 2 July and a flock of 45 in Peru on 22 August.

Many of the Regional specialties were reported by both local birders and people visiting the Region to seek them out. Gray Jays appear to be maintaining good numbers in Bloomingdale Bog and were also reported from Ferd's Bog, Madawaska, Spring Pond Bog, and Moose River Plains. Boreal Chickadees were reported from Bloomingdale Bog and Blue Mountain as well as a number of other summits. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Moose River Plains, Ferd's Bog, and Spring Pond Bog. Only one Cape May Warbler, a likely migrant, was reported from Intervale Lowlands on 6 June. Spruce Grouse reports were few but included a report of an adult with five chicks from private land near Spring Pond Bog. Seldom reported in recent years, an American Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Floodwood Rd. A Black-backed Woodpecker nest was found again this year on Bigelow Rd in Bloomingdale. The species was also reported from Ferd's Bog, Spring Pond Bog, and Moose River Plains. Rusty Blackbirds were only reported from two locations, Blue Mountain Rd. and Madawaska, during the breeding season despite targeted efforts to locate them for research. Bicknell's Thrush was reported from numerous Adirondack summits, though numbers on Whiteface Mountain were reportedly down from previous years, while numbers of Swainson's Thrushes may have increased.

Northern finches were widely reported across the Region throughout the period. Pine Siskins remained through the summer to breed, which only happens every few years. Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills were reported at a handful of places across the Region all summer, including Blue Mountain and Bloomingdale Bog. With drought conditions across much of the boreal forest it's expected that we'll be seeing more of the species in the months ahead.

One of the most unexpected reports for the period was a **Fox Sparrow** on Whiteface Mountain that was seen by multiple observers between 14 June and 11 July. There are no breeding records of this species in New York State, so it is unusual to have one remain in the Region during the breeding season. Also out-of-season was a Horned Grebe seen in Cumberland Bay on 7 July. A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, an uncommon breeder in the Champlain Valley, was reported from Ausable Marsh on 20 July. Also unexpected was a good number of reports of Great Egrets at Ausable Marsh through the period, including a recently fledged juvenile on 12 July. These birds may have possibly flown over from Four Brothers Islands, where 12 nests were counted this season. Great Egrets were also reported in August from Kiwassa Lake and Lake Durant.

A total of 186 species was recorded this season, shy of the record of 196 species that was set just last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; KB – King's Bay; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice; MFR – Miner Flat Rock; MRP – Moose River Plains; MW – Madawaska; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; RF – Reagan Flats Rd; SC – Scomotion Creek; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; WF – Whiteface Mtn.; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5 CL 5 Jun (BK); 2 KB 26 Aug (JO).
Gadwall: max 30 AP 24-26 Aug (DR).
Am. Black Duck: max 23 Camp Mtn View 10 Jun (GD).
Blue-winged Teal: 5 AP 15 Aug; 4 KB 26 Aug (JO).
Ring-necked Duck: max 8 PS 7 Jul (SF).
Long-tailed Duck: imm AP 15 Aug (JO).
Com. Goldeneye: max 14 AP 9 Jul (BJ).
Hooded Merganser: max 4 BB 7 Jul (CM).
Com. Merganser: max 34 AP 24 Aug (DR).
Spruce Grouse: max 6 Kildare Rd 21 Jun, fem with 5 FL (AR & AC); Willis Pond Rd 13 Jul (SF); SPB 14 Jul (AG).
Com. Loon: max 10 Lows L 4 Aug (MM).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 Cedar R Flow 19 Jul (GL).
Horned Grebe: CB 7 Jul (PO), very rare summer record CLIN.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 60 AP 13 Jun; imm Seventh L 27 Aug.
Am. Bittern: max 3 AP 10 Jun (BJ).
Great Egret: AP 15 Jun-15 Aug, max 4 (1 ad, 3 FL) 13 Jul (JH); 8 RF 18 Jul (RS); Kiwassa L 3 Aug (KW); L Durant 8 Aug (JM).

Green Heron: SC 15 Jun (NO); 2 Lewey L 7 Jul; RF 22 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 IL 3 Jun (LM); max 5 SC 15 Jun (NO); 4 (2 ad, 2 imm) AP 15 Aug (JO).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: max 10 AP 9 Jul (BJ).
Bald Eagle: max 4 Oseetah L 7 Aug.
N. Harrier: 2 SSP 28 Jul; 2 Lows L 4 Aug; 2 AP 28 Aug.
N. Goshawk: FB 22 Jun; L Pleasant 5 Jul; max 4 (2 ad, 2 imm) SPB 13 Jul (JC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Forked L 14 Aug; LA 18 Aug (JO).
Am. Kestrel: max 4 Indian L 3 Jun.
Merlin: max 4 Spitfire L 23 Jul (ZM).
Peregrine Falcon: SC 17 Jun; Oseetah L 7 Aug; WF 18 Aug; KB 27 Aug.
Virginia Rail: 2 WRS 17 Jul; 2 St Regis Falls 8 Aug; 2 AP 24 Aug.
Sora: WRS 17 Jul (CS); French Settlement Rd 8 Jun.
Com. Gallinule: 4 (1 ad, 3 imm) CR 1 Aug.
Black-bellied Plover: CR 3-5 Jun; max 63 CR 3 Jun (JO, BK).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 5-9 Jun, max 3 CR 9 Jun (BK); 2 KB 26 Aug (DR).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 8 AP 20 Jul (AW).
Solitary Sandpiper: RF 18 Jul (RS); KB 9 AUG (BK); LA 18 Aug (JO).
Greater Yellowlegs: CR 5 Jun & 12-16 Jul; max 3 CR 12 Jul (BK); 4 KB 26 Aug (DR).
Lesser Yellowlegs: CR 5 Jun & 13-20 Jul; max 5 CR 13 Jul (BK); 3 KB 31 Aug.
Sanderling: KB 29 Aug (BK); NP 30 Aug (MK).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR 3-9 Jun; max 10 CR 9 Jun (JO); KB 9-31 Aug; max 13 KB 31 Aug.
Least Sandpiper: CR 12 Jul-1 Aug; max 8 CR 16 Jul (BK).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 AP 15 Aug (JO); 2 KB 29 Aug (BK).
Dunlin: CR 3 Jun.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 CR 3 Jun (JO); 2 KB 29 Aug (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Oseetah L 12 Jun (GD).
Am. Woodcock: 3 fledged Keene 27 Jun (MM).
Red-necked Phalarope: juv CH 24 Aug (BK, SJ), 4th record CLIN.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 NP 7 Jul; 2 KB 26 Aug.
LITTLE GULL (R7): CR 3 & 9 Jun (BK).
Caspian Tern: CR 16 Jul-18 Aug; 3 AP 20 Jul; 10 (8 ad, 2 juv) KB 31 Aug.
Black Tern: CR 9 Jun (BK), only report.
Com. Tern: 2 L Champlain 21 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: CH 2 Jul; WRS 17 Jul; BB 3 Aug; SSP 11 Aug.
E. Screech-Owl: AP 20-21 Jul (AW).
Great Horned Owl: RF 18 Jul; PS 19 Jul; MFR 6 Aug (NO, MS).
Barred Owl: max 3 FL St Regis Mt 22 Jul (AB).
Com. Nighthawk: 11 MFR 2 Jul (KA, TS); 3 Gadway 8 Aug (NO); max 45 Peru 22 Aug (DR).
E. Whip-poor-will: 2 Ausable Chasm 9 Jun; 2 PK 31 Jul (DR); 8 (6 ad, 2 juv) MRF 6 Aug (NO).
Chimney Swift: max 63 St Regis Falls 11 Aug (BC).
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: Floodwood Rd 8 Jul (PJL, SSM), only report.
Black-backed Woodpecker: max 4 BB 14 Jun thru, nest w young; FB 22 Jun & 9 Jul; 2 SPB 8 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FB 8 Jun; max 4 MRP 10 Jun; 3 SPB 13 Jul.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: LA 3 Jun (JO); max 5 Hurricane Mt 8 Jun (MMe); 5 MW 2 Jun (CW).

Willow Flycatcher: SC 15 Jun; Altona 5 Jul (NO, BK).
Yellow-throated Vireo: Blue Mt Rd 27 Jul (RS).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 12 BB 24 Jun.
Warbling Vireo: max 7 LA 13 Jul.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Piseco L 7 Jun (CW); Cascade Mt 25 Jul.
Gray Jay: max 6 BB 24 Jun; multiple reports from MRP, SPB, FB, MW.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 IL 2-3 Jun; max 4 NP 7 Jul; Osgood P 15 Jul.
Bank Swallow: max 32 Dickinson Ctr 7 Aug (BP).
Cliff Swallow: 3 Essex 17 Jun; max 15 RF 18 Jul.
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 Blue Mt 5 Jul; 5 BB 19 Jul; 5 Dial Mt 6 Aug.
Carolina Wren: max 4 (2 ad, 2 juv) CH thru (NO); Lylis Camp 24 Jun (MMe).
Marsh Wren: max 15 SC 15 Jun (NO); 3 AP 12 Jul (JH).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 8 BB 24 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: AP 20 Jul (AW), a good find.
E. Bluebird: max 15 RF 18 Jul.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 6 WF 18 Jun (LM, SB); also reports from Blue, Lyon, Donaldson, Macomb, Tabletop, and Saddleback Mts.
Swainson's Thrush: max 12 WF 25 Jun.
Hermit Thrush: max 25 BB 8 Jul.
Wood Thrush: MRF 2 Jul (NO, MS); 2 RF 18 Jul.
Gray Catbird: max 4 RF 18 Jul.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Plattsburgh 2 Jul (NO).
Brown Thrasher: MRP 9 Jun.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

N. Waterthrush: max 4 MW 2 Jun.
Nashville Warbler: max 20 BB 24 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: IL 3 Jun (LM, JD).
N. Parula: max 10 BB 24 Jun.
Magnolia Warbler: max 20 MW 28 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: FB 17 Aug (SB).
Blackburnian Warbler: max 9 Perkins Clering 10 Jun (JD).
Yellow Warbler: max 6 BB 8 Jul.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 15 IL 2 Jun (LM).
Blackpoll Warbler: 5 Hurricane Mt 5 Jun (MMe); max 24 Blue Mt 17 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18 Blue Mt 17 Jun.
Palm Warbler: max 10 BB 27 Jun.
Pine Warbler: max 4 SPB 14 Jul.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 16 BB 17 Jun.

Canada Warbler: max 4 SPB 10 Jun; 2 Chazy L 24 Jun; Altona 24 Jun.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Altona 21 & 28 Jul (NO, MS); Dickinson Ctr 4 Jun (RS); Moody Rd 16 Jun.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Altona 24 Jun (JO).

Field Sparrow: Peru 14 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Peru 6 Aug.

FOX SPARROW (R7): WF 14 Jun-11 Jul (JC, mob), 1st mid-summer record for the State.

Lincoln's Sparrow: FB 15 Jun; max 12 BB 24 Jun; 2 Altona 24 Jun (JO).

Swamp Sparrow: max 10 Oseetah L 4 Jun (GD).

White-throated Sparrow: max 40 BB 15 Jun (GD).

White-crowned Sparrow: Uncas Rd 8 Jun (JC).

Scarlet Tanager: Oseetah L 12 Jun; max 2 Clarojast 16 Jun (JH); LA 13 Jul.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 4 Clarojast 16 Jun (JH); 3 Keene Valley 18 Jun (FG).

Indigo Bunting: 2 (ad FY) 27 Jun (MM); max 4 Belmont 23 Aug.

Bobolink: IL 3 Jun; 4 CH 7 Jun-1 Jul (NO); max 15 RF 18 Jul.

E. Meadowlark: 2 RF 5-18 Jul.

Rusty Blackbird: Blue Mt Rd 17 Jun (SB, LM); MW 11 Jul; AP 12 Jul (JH).

Baltimore Oriole: max 4 AP 14 Jun.

Purple Finch: max 15 BB 31 Jul; 15 AP 27 Aug.

Red Crossbill: 2 Blue Mt 9 Jun; SPB 13 Jul; max 4 Floodwood Rd 15 Jul; Osgood R 7 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: FB 8 Jun; Blue Mt 9 Jun BB 16 Jun.

Pine Siskin: max 35 IL 3 Jun; 35 WF 8 Jun; sightings thru.

Evening Grosbeak: BB 6 Jun (JC); 2 Inlet 9 Jun (GL); max 4 L Abanakee 30 Jul (CK).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Summer 2012 began with a mild drought and ended with warmer than average temperatures. Following a spring with low rainfall, June remained dry, contributing 1.64 fewer inches of rain than normal. Early July continued dry with many days above 90° F that seared green lawns to a crispy brown. Rainfall returned in late July, but the distribution was spotty due to chance thunderstorms. August continued the warm trend, ending 2.1° above average, with 0.86 fewer inches of rain than average. Bob Yunick, always a keen observer, may have come up with a new index of the availability of invertebrate prey for birds. He reported a marked reduction in insect kills on his car windshield this summer compared with previous summers.

Dry summers may lead to lower numbers of insects, but they often give Region 8 its only chance to observe tarrying migratory shorebirds as the margins of lakes and reservoirs become exposed. Cohoes Falls in Albany County produced such uncommon species as White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. T. Lloyd Williams, who often checked Myosotis Lake in Albany County, found a Western Sandpiper and Stilt Sandpiper there along exposed flats.

Steve Chorvas encountered comparatively high counts of 24 Bicknell's Thrush, 11 Swainson's Thrush, 22 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and 14 Blackpoll

Warblers during what he called ideal conditions for his annual census of Plateau Mountain, Greene County, for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Mountain Birdwatch Survey.

Will Raup found a Connecticut Warbler on 22 August at the weedy edge of his yard in Albany while waiting for dusk to usher in migrating nighthawks. The warbler remained at the location for a few days, flushed out the next morning by his dog. Will describes the frustration many of us encounter when trying to photograph a bird in the field: "In my rush," he reported, "I used autofocus and naturally the camera chose the wild grape leaves to focus crisp, leaving the bird blurry." Nonetheless, Will's photos and descriptions confirm the identification.

Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon statewide, which makes Bob Yunick's banding reports interesting. He has monitored this species in northern Saratoga County for decades, reporting that they bred there intermittently in the 1970s and 80s, and continuously since 1997. This year their numbers were much reduced, and he captured four male returns, two of which were seven years old, and two female returns. He caught only one immature this season, with its presumed mother.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; TR – Tomhannock Res, RENS.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: Coeymans Landing ALBA 17 Jun.

N. Pintail: Austerlitz COLU 29 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: Myosotis L ALBA 20 Aug.

Least Bittern: TR 29 Jul.

Great Egret: max 16 Halfmoon SARA 9 Aug.

Snowy Egret: Halfmoon SARA 23 Jul; COH 22-30 Jul; TR 27 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-heron: Carter Pd WASH 28 Jun; L George WARR 21 Jul; 2 TR 29 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: Ravena ALBA 3 Jun; Saratoga SARA 20 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: COH 17 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: Five Rivers ALBA 24 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 5 COH 4 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: COH 3 Aug; Ft Miller WASH 3 Aug; max 9 Myosotis L ALBA 29 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 W Ames MONT 7-14 Jun; Perth FULT 5 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: COH 26 Jul; 3 COH 3 Aug.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (R8): Myosotis L ALBA 22 Aug (TLW).

Least Sandpiper: max 8 Rensselaerville ALBA 14 Jul.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (R8): 2 COH 26 Jul.

Pectoral Sandpiper: COH 27 Jul; Ft Miller WASH 4 Aug; TR 4 Aug.

Dunlin: COH 26 Jul; TR 2 Aug.

STILT SANDPIPER (R8): Myosotis L ALBA 29 Aug (TLW).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 COH 26 Jul.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 COH 5 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 2 Round L SARA 24 Jun; Coeymans Landing ALBA 18 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: Rensselaerville ALBA 11 Jul.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Elka Park GREE 7 Jun.

Com. Nighthawk: max 16 Malta SARA 18 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: Berne ALBA 5 Jun; 2 Queensbury WARR 23 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Niskayuna SCHE 1-6 Jun.

Monk Parakeet: 2 Watervliet ALBA 15 Jun, nesting.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Partridge Run ALBA 25 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 22 Plateau Mountain GREE 1 Jun (SC).

Purple Martin: Germantown COLU 21-22 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: Ancram COLU 19 Jun; Chatham COLU 27 Jun; Austerlitz COLU 15 Aug.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 24 Plateau Mountain GREE 1 Jun (SC).

Swainson's Thrush: max 11 Plateau Mountain GREE 1 Jun (SC).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: Ravena ALBA 11 Jun; Hillsdale COLU 11 Aug.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R8): Albany 22-24 Aug (WR).

Mourning Warbler: Partridge Run ALBA 30 Jun-11 Jul; Burnt-Rossman SF SCHO 1 Jul; max 3 N Creek WARR 6 Jul.

Hooded Warbler: 2 New Scotland ALBA 30 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: 4 Partridge Run ALBA 25 Aug.

N. Parula: Peebles I SARA 27 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 14 Plateau Mountain GREE 1 Jun (SC).

Canada Warbler: Plateau Mountain GREE 1 Jun; max 3 N Creek WARR 6 Jul; N River WARR 14 Aug; Coeymans ALBA 21 Aug; Albany 25 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: Rensselaerville ALBA 20 Aug.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: Saratoga Battlefield SARA 20 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Argyle WASH 12 Jun; Saratoga SARA 20 Jun.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 N River WARR 14 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: max 2 Saratoga Battlefield SARA 3 Jun.

Red Crossbill: 2 Partridge Run ALBA 9 Jun.

Pine Siskin: Averill Pk RENS 28 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Queensbury WARR 21 Jun.

REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The summer season's weather can best be described as very humid. Temperatures were above normal for each month. Despite that, there were no extreme high temperatures or heat waves. Poughkeepsie's daily high never rose above the mid-nineties, but a majority of days—63%—were above normal, and there were very few unusually cool days. Very few weather systems brought *The Kingbird* 2012 December; 62 (4)

rain. Precipitation came mainly in the form of afternoon thunder storms and showers, which led to many oppressively humid days, curtailing birding activity. The season averaged 2.7° F above normal, and precipitation was 1.5" below normal with 10.75" of rain.

The Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count, which includes much of eastern Westchester County, was conducted 9-10 June and recorded 134 species. Highlights from Westchester County included a breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe, six Brant, four Willets, and a Nelson's Sparrow in Rye. Count period birds included a BLACK TERN and two Black Skimmers in Rye.

The Putnam County Summer Count in June found 110 species. Fahnestock SP had four Eastern Whip-poor-wills, two Magnolia Warblers, eight Blackburnian Warblers, and a Black-throated Blue Warbler. The count also recorded six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a Blue-headed Vireo, and two Canada Warblers.

A Eurasian Wigeon was found in Wurtsboro on 2 June, an unusual date. It is Sullivan County's third record. Other out of season waterfowl included Gadwall, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, and Ruddy Duck. A Red-throated Loon hung out in Saugerties for two weeks in mid June, and a couple of Common Loons also lingered into June.

The pair of Mississippi Kites from the spring season continued at Sterling Forest. The last report was on 1 July. No signs of young or successful nesting were reported. An American Avocet was a one day wonder at Piermont Pier on 15 June and was seen by a few lucky birders. Another lucky birder was Steven Beal, who found a Black Skimmer flying over the Cross County Parkway in Yonkers, far from appropriate water on 6 June. Another Black Skimmer was videoed inland at Piermont Pier on 4 July by Evan Mark.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are doing well at the Weston Road Swamp in the Esopus/New Paltz area, with at least three active nest cavities.

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported singing at the Pawling Nature Preserve on 17 June by members of the Waterman Bird Club. This is highly unusual away from the Adirondacks at this time of year. Another was at Minnewaska SP on 14 August but could have been an early dispersal individual. An intriguing find was that of an immature Blue Grosbeak found and photographed by Suzanne O'Rourke at Twin Lakes Park in Eastchester on 22 July. Scott Baldinger found a male and female Evening Grosbeak coming to his feeder at the Bashakill on the first two days of June.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies ; CPP – Croton Point Park ; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; GSSBC – Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; PCSC – Putnam County Summer Count; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Brant: 6 Rye 9 Jun.

Wood Duck: 40 Bashakill 19 Jul; 100 Bashakill 2 Aug.

Gadwall: PP 25 Jul (EE).

EURASIAN WIGEON (R9): Wurtsboro 2 Jun (JH,ABo), unusual date, 3rd SULL record.

Am. Wigeon: EGR 28 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 8, 25 Aug; 6 Morningside Park 18 Aug; 5 Wallkill River NWR 23 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: 2 m Great Vly, Saugerties 16 Jun (ABe); 2 f/imm Great Vly 8 Aug (ABe).

Greater Scaup: 6 Rye 9 Jun (AF).

Surf Scoter: Rye 9 Jun (AF).

Hooded Merganser: Mine Rd, Orange C 3 Jun; 2 juv Linear P, Wurtsboro 9 Jun; pr Bashakill 14 Jun.

Com. Merganser: 2 CIES 3,6,17 June; 1f, 9yg Willowemoc Creek 3 Jun; Saugerties Lighthouse 6,8 Jun; Millbrook 14 June; 1-2 Neversink Res 20,23 Jul; 9 Roundout Res 2 Jul.

Ruddy Duck: Sylvan Lake 2 Jun (RR)

Ring-necked Pheasant: Rye 9 Jun; Millbrook 22 Aug.

Red-throated Loon: Saugerties 6-21 Jun (FM).

Com. Loon: Rye 9, 11 Jun (AF, TB); Clarence Fahnestock SP 23 Jun (ChM); Ashokan Res 29 Aug (FM).

Pied-billed Grebe: Great Vly 25 Aug; 2 Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Park 27 Aug.

Horned Grebe: MC. Rye area 3, 5, 9,10 Jun (GM,AF,TB), alt plumage.

Least Bittern: 2 Bashakill 15, 17-18, 22 Jun; 2 Great Vly, Saugerties 16 Jun; Tivoli Bay 30 Jul; Bashakill 3,6 Jul; Saugerties 26 Aug.

Great Blue Heron: max 35 Wallkill R NWR 17 Jul.

Great Egret: 31 Tivoli Bays 10 Jun; 20 Bashakill 19 Jul.

Snowy Egret: 1 PP 23,25 Jul.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 3 New Rochelle 12 Aug.

Glossy Ibis: 3 MC 11 Jun, 8 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1-2 Sterling Forest SP1 - 30 Jun; 2 Sterling Forest SP 1 Jul (LSc).

N. Harrier: 1-2 SGNWR Jun - Jul; Bashakill 10 Jun; Wappinger Falls 30 Jun; Millbrook 5 Jul; Lake Carmel 19 Jul; PP 10 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 19 Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch 17 Aug.

Merlin: Sterling SF 11 Jun; Fishkill 9 Jul.

Clapper Rail: MC 5-11 Jun.

Sora: Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 5 Jun.

Com. Gallinule: max 15 Bashakill 22 Jun; 2 Great Vly, Saugerties 16, 30 Jun; 11 Great Vly 11 Aug.

Am. Coot: 6 Falling Waters, Glasco 8 Jul (MMA).

Black-bellied Plover: PP 25 Jun.

Am. Golden-Plover: 2 Skinners Lane, Goshen 26 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 7 MC 5 Jun; 47 MC 20 Aug.

Killdeer: 115 Skinners Lane, Goshen 14 Aug.

Am. Oystercatcher: max 31 Rye 9 Jun (GSSBC).

AMERICAN AVOCET (R9): PP 15 Jun (EE,EM,CW,DC).

Spotted Sandpiper: Sylvan Lake 2 Jun; 2 Willowemoc Creek 3 Jun; Great Vly, Saugerties

7 Jun; 2 Rye 9 Jun; Millbrook 10 Jun; Mianus River Gorge Preserve 11, 18 Jun; Lake Jefferson 21 Jun; 2 Winding Hills Park, Montgomery 30 Jun; 6 Morningside Park 7, 11 Jul; Tamarack Preserve 11 Jul; Red Hook 15 Jul; 5 Denning's Pt 27 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: Sterling Forest SP 3 Jun; Red Hook 20 Jul; 6 Morningside Park 23 Jul.

Willert: 1-3 Hen 1, Rye 5, 19 Jun; 4 Rye 10 Jun (GSSBC); 4, 2 juv Milton Point, Rye 29 Jun; PP 15 Jul (EE).

Upland Sandpiper: 5 Blue Chip Farm 2 Jun; 2 Blue Chip Farm 7 Jun.

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 PP 30 Jul, 3 Aug.

Sanderling: PP 15 Aug (EE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 62 Apollo Plaza, Monticello 2 Jun; 170 MC 2 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza, Monticello 2, 6 Jun (JH); 3 EGR 4 Jun (TB).

Baird's Sandpiper: Apollo Plaza, Monticello 29-31 Aug (JH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 Wallkill R NWR. 29 Jul; 5 PP 21 Jul; MC 3 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: PP 22 Jul (DC).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 15 PP 12 Jul (EE); 2 PP 22 Jul (DC); 2 *hendersoni* MC 3 Aug; 17 MC 6 Aug; Wallkill NWR 26 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: Ashokan Res 18 Aug (PS).

Laughing Gull: 11 Rye 9 Jun; PP 21 Jun, 15, 25 Jul.

Least Tern: 2 MC 21 Jun; 11 MC 23, 24 Jul; PP 28 Jul (CC); 3 PP 12 Aug.

Caspian Tern: PP 10 Jun, 5, 20, 26, 29 Jul (EE, EM, CW); 2 PP 13 Aug.

Black Tern: EGR 11 Jun (BV, TB).

Forster's Tern: 3 Rye 9 Jun; PP 9 Jul (VP); MC 23 Jul; 4 PP 25 Jul (EE); 1-2 MC 13, 21 Aug.

Black Skimmer: Yonkers 6 Jun (SBe); 2 Milton Point 9, 19 Jun; 10 Milton Point 13 Jun; PP 4 Jul (EE, EM).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 150 SGNWR 21 Jul.

Monk Parakeet: 14 Aiello P, New Rochelle 12 Aug; 4 Larchmont 20 Aug.

Barn Owl: Blue Chip Farm 9 Jun (MR).

Com. Nighthawk: 50 Town of Ulster 17 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: 4 Fahnestock 10 Jun (ChM, PCSC); 3 Phillipsport 2 Aug (VF, MC, RM).

Chimney Swift: max 300 Saugerties 22-31 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15

Harcourt Sanctuary 21 Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-6 Weston Rd Swamp Esopus/New Paltz thru, 3 nest cavities active.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 PCSC 10 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: MC 1 Jun; Sterling Forest 3 Jun; CIES 5 Aug, early; Woodstock 14, 23, 24 Aug; Minnewaska SP 21 Aug; Bashakill 31 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Harriman SP 3 Jun; Willowemoc Creek 3 Jun; Sterling Forest 30 Jun; Ward Pound Ridge 22 Aug; Bashakill 29 Aug; Rockefeller SP 29 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: reports from all 7 counties in Jun; 6 PCSC 10 Jun; 5 Pawling Nature Preserve 17 Jun; MC 6, 7 Jun; 2 Mianus River Gorge Preserve 11 Jun; Olive 20 Jun.

White-eyed Vireo: Muscoot Farm 10 Jun; Tivoli Bays 21 Jul; only reports.

Blue-headed Vireo: PCSC 10 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Montgomery 24, 27 Aug; Pine I 26 Aug; Wallkill R NWR 26 Aug.

Horned Lark: 11 Pine Island 29 Jul.

Tree Swallow: 250 Saugerties Lighthouse 12 Jul; 1000 PP 26 Aug (DC).

Bank Swallow: max 200 Wallkill 10 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: after nearly absent in winter and spring, there was an influx into the area in June; then again in late August.

Brown Creeper: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation 10 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 5 Minnewaska SP 12, 17 Jul.

Marsh Wren: 7 MC 8 Jun; 5 Tivoli Bays 11 Jun; 6 Tivoli Bays 21 Jul; 15 MC 24 Jul; 5 Constitution Marsh 8 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Pawling Nature Preserve 17 Jun (ZS); Minnewaska SP 14 Aug (SB).

Gray-checked Thrush: Cranberry Lake, Westchester 2 Jun (GP).

Bicknell's Thrush: 5 Slide Mt 15 Jun (BM); 3 Slide Mountain 1 Jul (SC).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: max 40 Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area 13 Jun.

Worm-eating Warbler: max 8 Mianus R Gorge 3 Jun; 8 Doodletown 16 Jun.

Golden-winged Warbler: max 6 Sterling Forest 7 Jun; 2 PCSC 10 Jun; Bashakill 22 Jul.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 26 Armonk 10 Jun.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Sterling Forest 3 Jun.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 25 Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area 13 Jun.

Nashville Warbler: Sterling Forest 17 Jun (LSc).

Mourning Warbler: Claryville 12 Aug; MC 15 Aug; Livingston Manor 19 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: Doodletown Rd 3, 11, 16, 17, 24 Jun, 7 Jul; Ward Pound Ridge 14 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 15 Doodletown Rd 9 Jun; 6 Pawling Nature Preserve 17 Jun; 8 Minnewaska SP 19 Jun.

Am. Redstart: max 25 Doodletown Rd 9 Jun.

Cerulean Warbler: 3 Little Stony Point, Cold Spring 1 Jun; 10 Doodletown Rd 9 Jun; 10 PCSC 10 Jun.

N. Parula: Doodletown 3 Jun; Sterling Forest 2, 3, 7, 15 Jun; Mills-Norrie SP mid Jun (AP); Westmoreland Sanctuary 16 Jun (SRi); Wurtsboro 28 Jun (SBa); Tivoli Bay 5 Jul (SRO).

Magnolia Warbler: 2 PCSC 10 Jun;

Blackburnian Warbler: 8 PCSC 10 Jun; Pawling Nature Preserve 17 Jun; 2 Clarence Fahnestock SP 23 Jun; 2 Pawling Nature Preserve 30 Jun; handful of expected reports from SULL and ULST.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30 Neversink Unique Area 20 Jun.

Blackpoll Warbler: MC 6 Jun; Fahnestock SP 6 Jun; max 5 Slide Mountain 1 Jul.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: PCSC 10 Jun; max 10 Minnewaska SP 3 Jul.

Canada Warbler: 2 PCSC 10 Jun; max 7 Minnewaska SP 19 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: Sterling Forest SP 3 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Sterling Forest SP 7 Jun.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: 2-4 Red Hook 6, 8, 15, 20 Jul (PS,SRO); Lake Tiorati 19 Jul (SRi).

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 SGNWR 11 Jun (MBa); Red Hook 8,15 Jul (PS).

Nelson's Sparrow: MC 4 Jun.

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 5, 8, 11 Jun, 24, 25 Jul, 1 Aug.

Seaside Sparrow: Rye 9 Jun (AF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Woodstock 31 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: Doodletown 9 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: Kingston 4 Aug (MD), early for this loc; Eastchester 30 Aug (JB).

Blue Grosbeak: imm Twin Lakes, Eastchester 22 Jul, photo (SO).

Orchard Oriole: max 6 Wallkill RNWR 30 Jul.

Purple Finch: max 10 New Paltz 30 Aug.

Pine Siskin: 10 Parksville 2 Jun (SRa); 8

Woodbourne 7 Jun (RM,VF); at feeder Saugerties 21 Jun (FM); Bashakill 18,19,21,24.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Bashakill 1-2 Jun (SBa,DP).

EXOTICS

Nutmeg Mannikin: PP 21, 26-27 July, 5 Aug (CW).

REGION 10—MARINE

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Cliff Swallows nested at Alley Pond Environmental Center in Queens, furnishing a very rare Long Island breeding record and evidence of the ecological value of this sensitive area. Other notable breeding records this season included a Gull-billed Tern nest on the beach, near the Lido Beach Common Tern and Black Skimmer colony, Brooklyn's first documented Blue Grosbeak nest, and a territorial Kentucky Warbler at Rocky Point, Suffolk County. On Long Island, Gull-billed Terns tend to nest on inaccessible marsh islands, and breeding efforts often go undetected. Blue Grosbeak has solidified its status as a breeder in the central Long Island pine barrens region, but this species was hardly expected to nest in an urban coastal park. Kentucky Warbler has always been very rare as an actual/potential breeder on Long Island (vs. demonstrably more frequent in the Lower Hudson River Valley), so the Rocky Point bird's behavior was a testament to the relative quality of the forest he

avored. To put things in perspective for readers from mainland New York, a species as ubiquitous throughout most of its range as American Redstart is actually scarce and local as a breeder on Long Island—to the extent that it is something of an indicator of forest quality here; it was therefore fitting that American Redstarts were present alongside the Rocky Point Kentucky Warbler.

In addition to summer season staples, such as late spring migration, the breeding season, and early fall migration, we have often made special efforts to draw attention to another, more mysterious, dimension of the summer season: the extraordinarily diverse and disparate communities of non-breeding birds that regularly converge on our Region during June and July. Summer 2012 was really remarkable in this regard, and if one sought to illustrate this pattern via a single day, 2 June 2012 serves very nicely indeed.

For several independent groups of Region 10 birders, the combination of date (late spring/early summer), day of week (Saturday), and conditions (southeasterly winds) on this day made it relatively simple to decide what to do: get to the ocean and search for seabirds. Under these circumstances, a wide variety of seabirds can be anticipated, including species that breed in the Southern Hemisphere, such as Sooty Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels; non-breeding individuals of North Atlantic species, such as Cory's and Manx Shearwaters; as well as late migrants of several species still bound for far-northern breeding grounds. The observers who began gathering at favorable vantages like Robert Moses SP and Main Beach, East Hampton were not disappointed. All of the species just named were observed, along with both species of loons, Northern Gannets, Great Shearwaters, Parasitic Jaegers, and Black Terns. Astonishingly, adult Long-tailed Jaegers were also seen at both sites. The improbability of seeing even one from land, together with the time and distance intervals (60 miles, 2:47), led some to suggest that the same individual was involved. Another remarkable report was of a Leach's Storm-Petrel, from Main Beach. Apart from a handful of old specimens of birds striking lighthouses at night, we are not aware of any prior land-based records from Long Island during spring. Even more remarkable was the report from Robert Moses of a Cape Verde Shearwater, a relative of the Cory's Shearwater, and a potential first record for New York, pending review.

Clearly, oceanic birds were on the move that day. A further indication of this trend came later that same day, when observers on the flats near Moriches Inlet found no fewer than **six** Arctic Terns, three of which were in the seldom-seen adult breeding plumage. Over the past decade, we've used these summer season reports to make the case that this historically enigmatic species occurs regularly on coastal Long Island during June and July. Taking that point as given now, this species' pattern of occurrence still seems surprisingly variable, from year to year, and even from day to day. For instance, under relatively uniform effort of observation in recent years, the number of birds recorded in a given year has varied from as few as four to more than a dozen per year, even as the frequency of multi-bird days (such as six on 2 June 2012 and five on 9 July 2006) is consistently greater than one would expect for such a scarce species. Furthermore, this species' inshore occurrence at this season shows no clear

relationship with weather. Thus, the fact that a record-setting tally of Arctic Terns occurred on the same day as a record-setting seabird flight suggests that our inshore Arctic Terns might be indicators of larger than usual aggregations of pelagic species close to shore, a hypothesis currently under analysis. If so, we might profit by re-conceiving our thoughts about the occurrence of pelagic birds near shore, by shifting from the view that these birds are displaced landward passively by the weather to a view that considers the possibility that seabird communities might, on occasion, actively utilize our inshore waters to a greater extent than generally appreciated.

The final prizes in this category of amazing seabird records came only a few weeks later: a Brown Booby seen at close range and photographed by Arie Gilbert and Derek Rogers on the Moriches Inlet flats on 5 July, and a Fea's Petrel photographed by Anthony Collerton just five miles south of Montauk on 19 June—another potential first state record, pending review. Both of these birds are remarkable not just for their rarity, but for their occurrence in places that, although seemingly grossly abnormal for the species in question, have nevertheless acquired reputations for hosting unexpected seabirds of many kinds (Fea's Petrel had been predicted to occur in New York, but over deep, warm water, far from land—not over the cool, shallow waters close to shore).

In another category were a surprising number and variety of non-breeding landbirds lingering into summer in the urban oasis of Bryant Park. These records illustrate the summer season's potential as a time to search for vagrant landbirds that stray, for a variety of reasons, from their expected haunts. As is usually the case, quite a few shorebirds lingered with us through the month of June, including immature examples of Western Willet, Dunlin, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher. The undoubted highlight among these tweeners was a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper, found near Moriches Inlet on 14 June by Michael McBrien.

Fall arrived no later than 20 June this year, when Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper were observed migrating westward at Moriches Inlet after long absences. Like shorebirds, swallows migrate heavily during mid-summer. This year several observers were treated to a big coastal flight on 25 July, which was highlighted by 201 Cliff Swallows near Moriches Inlet—a remarkable number at any season in Region 10. The July shorebird migration was subjected to disciplined ground and pound coverage by Andrew Baksh and others, resulting in, among other notables, no fewer than **four** Ruffs at Jamaica Bay—a major uptick in occurrence that was mirrored elsewhere in eastern North America this summer. But the excitement of July ebbed into puzzlement and disappointment in August, as very few juvenile shorebirds materialized. The extent to which this phenomenon was localized to Jamaica Bay (where it was very pronounced) or perhaps more broadly indicative of breeding success, remains to be quantified.

There were incursions of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and even Red Crossbill into Region 10 before the end of August, along with early appearances by Myrtle and Palm Warblers and White-throated Sparrow, among others. As we have discussed in previous summer essays (e.g., 2007), these

phenomena occur during summers of widespread drought and appear to be correlated with irruptive movements by many kinds of forest-breeding birds during the subsequent fall seasons. Normal late summer landbird migration was also well illustrated by the flight of 28-29 August, which produced large numbers and variety across the Region.

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ABBREVIATIONS

1S – first-summer plumage; 2S – second-summer plumage; APP – Alley Pond P, QUEE; BryP – Bryant P, NEWY; Calverton – SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CemRes – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CLP – Clove Lakes P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSPP – Connetquot R SP Preserve, SUFF; CVP – Calvert Vaux P, KING; Dune R – Dune Rd, SUFF; Eastport – SUFF; EH – East Hampton, SUFF; EP – East Patchogue, SUFF; EPCAL – former Grumman property, Calverton, SUFF; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; HY – hatch year; JamBay – Jamaica Bay NWR, QUEE/KING; JBWE – Jones Beach West End, NASS; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; MB – Mecox Bay; Main B – Main Beach, EH; SUFF; MLUA – Mount Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MP – Montauk Pt; Mtk – Montauk, SUFF; NB – Nickerson Beach, NASS; Northville – SUFF; NYBG – New York Botannical Garden, BRON; OP – Orient Pt, SUFF; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton, SUFF; PI – Plum I, SUFF; PonqB – Ponquogue Bridge, SUFF; PP – Prospect P, KING; Riv sod farms – Riverhead sod farms, SUFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RPt DEC – Rocky Pt DEC property, SUFF; Shinn –

Shinnecock In and vicinity, SUFF; SI – Staten I (RICH); SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; WPP – Wolfes Pond P, RICH.

WHISTLING DUCKS-VULTURES

Snow Goose: ad lingered Orient, SUFF to 10 Jun.

Brant: 1S CCP 14 Jun (MMcB).

Mute Swan: max 293 (inc 7 cygnets) JamBay 21 Jul.

American Black Duck: ad + 6 y Dune R 1 Jul (E Schwinn).

Blue-winged Teal: max 42 JamBay 24 Aug (MSch).

Common Eider: 8 imm males PI 20 Jul; 2 Shagwong Bay, Mtk 22 Jul (AnW).

Surf Scoter: ad m NB 9 Jun (PPo); 9 Shagwong Bay, Mtk 22 Jul (AnW); molting SY f Connetquot R 12 Aug, (MMcB).

White-winged Scoter: sev OP 13 Jul (North Fork Birds Report); m Asharoken Beach, SUFF 13 Jul (LI Birding), 23 Jul; 4 Gardiner's Bay, SUFF 20 Jul (LI Birding); 2 Shagwong Bay, Mtk 22 Jul (AnW); 2 males OPCP 14 Aug (MLL).

Long-tailed Duck: OP 13 Jul (North Fork Birds Report).

Bufflehead: ad f WPP 14 Jun (ACi).

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 CCP 1 Jun (MMcB).

Northern Bobwhite: Avalon Pres, Setauket, SUFF 2-3, 21, 25 Jul (LI Birding, ph); m EP 16 Aug (MMcB), only reports aside from sev release programs in LI parks and preserves.

Ring-necked Pheasant: JBWE 15 Aug (MMcB).

Red-throated Loon: 1 RMSP 2 Jun, (mob), *see intro*.

Common Loon: 31 RMSP (mob), 132 Main B (mob) 2 Jun, *see intro*; 16 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM); 3 Fort Wadsworth, RICH 17-19 Jul, molting on beach (CB).

Horned Grebe: alt Reeve's Bay, Flanders, SUFF 18-22 Jul (Tom Haskell *fide* DR, mob).

FEA'S PETREL: pelagic 5 mi se MP 19 Jun (ACo, ph), 1st state record, pending NYSARC review.

Cory's Shearwater: 21 RMSP (mob) & 77 Main B (mob) 2 Jun; *intro*; nearshore pelagic 5-10 mi s of Brooklyn 17 Jun (AG et al.); bird in Plum Gut 19 Jul cont. from "a few weeks" was prob this spec (MSch), far from ocean; 8 CCP 18 Aug (PJL).

CAPE VERDE SHEARWATER: RMSP 2 Jun (SSM, mob), reports to NYSARC; *intro*.

Great Shearwater: 5 RMSP (mob) & 10 Main B (mob) 2 Jun; *intro*; 200+ pelagic 35 s Mtk 19 Jun (ACo); 2 CCP 18 Aug (PJL).

Sooty Shearwater: 716 RMSP (mob) & 2,322 Main B (mob); *intro*; Tobay, NASS 8 Jun (PM), westernmost.

Manx Shearwater: all reports: 2 RMSP (mob) & 27 Main B (mob) 2 Jun, *see intro*; pelagic 35 mi s Mtk 19 Jun (ACo); pelagic 8-25 mi s Mtk 22 Jul (ACo); Shinn 28 Jul (DR), well inside inlet; pelagic sse Shinn 28-29 Jul, ph; JBWE & JBSP Field 6 one hour later 11 Aug (NYRBA), poss same bird.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: pelagic 92 mi sse Shinn 28-29 Jul, ph (JSh, AnW).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 78 RMSP (mob) & 69 Main B (mob); *intro*; 120+ nearshore pelagic 5-10 mi s of Brooklyn 17 Jun (AG); 25+ Rockaway In 15 Jul (AG); several Gardiner's Bay 14-15 Jul (BH); 74 Culloden Pt, Mtk 22 Jul (AnW); 83 e LI Sound 22 Jul (SSM); 'hundreds' a few miles s of MP 22 Jul (BH; ACo); 330 pelagic 92 mi sse Shinn 28-29 Jul, ph (JSh, AnW); 25-30 inshore pelagic (Freeport whale watch) s of Rockaway Beach, QUEE 9 Aug (K Michaels); 6 Fort Tilden, QUEE 10 Aug (ABa); JBWE 11 Aug; more numerous & widespread than usual sw LI and LI Sound.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: Main B 2 Jun ("seen well" mob), *see intro*; 26 pelagic 92 mi sse Shinn 28-29 Jul, ph (JSh, AnW).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: 6-7 pelagic 92 mi sse Shinn 28-29 Jul, ph (JSh, AnW).

BROWN BOOBY: CCP 5 Jul (DR, AG, ph).

Northern Gannet: 13 RMSP (mob) & 17 Main Beach (mob) 2 Jun; *intro*; MB 10 Jun (MMcB); 4 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM); imm fishing boat s of Freeport 13 Jul (BBc).

Double-crested Cormorant: sb migr first noted 18-19 Aug.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R10):

JamBay 14 Aug thru (ABa; A Peltomaa, mob).

Brown Pelican: Freeport, NASS 21 Jun (NYRBA); 4 Fire I In 3 Jul (Kimberly Van Tassel *fide* SD'A); RMSP 4 Jul (KF) flying w to e; RMSP 5 Jul (LI Birding); 3 CVP 14 Jul (AIW, ph); 2 on bar JBWE 11 Aug (TWB, GB); 2 flyby JBWE 15 Aug (BAND).

American Bittern: Dune R 7 Jul (ACo); Nissequogue R, SUFF 29 Aug (LI Birding); rare summer.

Least Bittern: MLUA, RICH 7 Jun, calling (ACi); River Road creek, RICH 14 Jul (CB).

Great Egret: 39 Arshamomaque Pd Pres, SUFF 20 Aug (G Tudor).

Snowy Egret: 74 JamBay East Pd 26 Aug (MMcB).
Little Blue Heron: William Floyd Estate, SUFF 30 Jul (MLL); 4 Captree I. SUFF 25 Aug (MMcB).
Tricolored Heron: scarce again this season at sw LI breeding locs; 2 CCP 10 Jun, farther e.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Dune R 7 Jul (ACo), where scarce; Avalon Pres, SUFF 6 Jul (LI Birding); 4 CVP 14 Jul (AIW); 3 young JBWE 10 Aug (MMcB); juv EP 16-23 Aug (MMcB).
Black Vulture: PP 17 Aug (PD).
Turkey Vulture: 6 Calverton 10 Jun (MMcB); 12 Northville 9 Jul (MLL); Seaford, NASS 2 Aug (MMcB); 13 Eastport 19 Aug (MMcB); 9 Northville 27 Aug (MLL); numerous reps of smaller numbers from central and e LI.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: imm Sammy's Beach, EH 24 Jun (ACo); imm Peconic, SUFF 5 Aug (LI Birding); 2 Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 21 Jul (PM); imm JBWE 21 Aug (SyS et al).
Northern Harrier: Cedar Beach 11 Jun, former breeding loc; m Freshkills P, RICH 7 Aug (SWo); imm f Northville 17 Aug (MLL); f and imm PI 17 Aug (LI Birding).
American Kestrel: 4 CVP 14 Jul (AIW); pr EPCAL 23 Aug (RF et al).
Merlin: Riverhead sod farms 18 Aug (PJJ, SSM).
Peregrine Falcon: pr RM Twin Causeway and water tower thru.
Clapper Rail: ad, 6 y JBWE 11 Aug, rarely reported from this loc (SyS, JGi).
Black-bellied Plover: 132 JamBay 7 Aug (ABa); 58 Riverhead sod farms 18 Aug (MLL).
American Golden-Plover: arr 18 Aug, 37 ads Riverhead sod farms (DR), 51 Cutchogue, SUFF (SSM, PJJ), & 3 Floyd Bennett Field, KING (ABa); max Riverhead sod farms 104 on 19 Aug (mob) & 97 on 26 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: ~400 JBWE 18 Aug (DF).
Piping Plover: max 30 JBWE 19 Aug.
Killdeer: max 56 Eastport 23 Aug (JT).
American Oystercatcher: 80 NB 10 Jun (BBa); max 345 JBWE 10 Aug (MMcB).
American Avocet: JamBay 16 Jul (ABa); JamBay 1-5 Aug (ABa, C Finger, mob); 2 Downs Creek, Cutchogue, SUFF 5 Aug (RBA); 4 JamBay 6 Aug (ABa); JamBay 25 Aug thru (SWa, mob).
Spotted Sandpiper: JamBay 2 Jul (ABa); 12 JamBay 22 Jul (RJK); 19 PI 20 Aug (LI Birding), high count for survey.

Solitary Sandpiper: nocturnal flight call over Manhattan 24 Jul (AF); 3 Penny's Pd, Northville 15 Aug (BAD); 3 HSP 16 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: 2 sb CCP 20 Jun (SSM); 14 JamBay 30 Jun & 17 there 2 Jul (ABa).
Willet semipalmatus: 177 CCP 10 Jul (MMcB); 20 JBWE 2 Aug (BF); *inornatus:* ad CCP 1 Jun (MMcB), 1st report; 4 CCP 14 Jul (RBA); 19 (inc 2 juv) JBWE 10 Aug (MMcB); many thereafter.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 20 Jun APP & CCP (3); 16 JamBay 30 Jun, 38 Jam Bay 2 Jul (ABa).
Upland Sandpiper: Calverton 15 Aug (HMcG); HSP 16 Aug (DLAm).
Whimbrel: arr JamBay 19 Jun (RB); max 4 CCP 24 Jul (KF) & 4-6 Cedar Beach CP, Southold SUFF 5-17 Aug (LI Birding; DR); many wudespread reps 1-3 thru.
Hudsonian Godwit: 2 JamBay 26 Aug (KaM); 26 JBWE 28 Aug (BAnd), ph, v. large number.
Marbled Godwit: CCP 28 Jun (SWa); CCP 5 Jul (AG); PonqB 27-28 Jul (JT, mob); PonqB 8-10 Aug (K Thompson, mob); JBWE 14 Aug (ACo); JBWE 23 Aug (RF et al); CCP 27 Aug (BAD).
Ruddy Turnstone: 300 Dune R 4 Jun (ACo); 100 JBWE 2 Aug (BF).
Red Knot: 2 JamBay East Pond 21 Jul, usually scarce at this loc; 105 CCP 28 Jul (MMcB); 200 JBWE 2 Aug (BF); JamBay E Pd. 4 Aug (JGi et al.); JamBay E Pd. 7 Aug (ABa), 26 Aug (KaM); 17 CCP 27 Aug (BAD).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 JamBay 2 Jul, 1st report from loc (ABa); 300 JamBay 13 Jul (ABa); 1000+ JamBay 21 Jul (RJK); first juvs JamBay 21 Jul; 3,500 JBWE 2 Aug (BF); 550+ Swindler Cove P, NEWY (BC et al); down to 1000 "outie" 7 Aug (ABa); 3-400 Inwood Hill P, NEWY 12 Aug (NS).
Western Sandpiper: WPP 16 Jul (ACi); bright f JamBay 21 Jul (PJJ, JQ, A Randolfi, ph); JamBay 1 Aug (ABa); JamBay 27 Aug (ABa).
Least Sandpiper: arr CCP 20 Jun; 5 JamBay 30 Jun, 6 JamBay 2 Jul (ABa); 40 JamBay 13 Jul; first juv JamBay 21 Jul; 100+ JamBay 22 Jul (RJK); 1-200 Inwood Hill P, NEWY 12 Aug (NS); bas ad JBWE 17 Aug (ABa, ph).
White-rumped Sandpiper: a few MB 5 Jun (KF, SF); 22 MB 2 Jun (RBA); 5 JamBay 2 Jul (ABa); 7 CCP 5 Jul; JamBay 13 Jul (ABa); 2 JamBay 21 Jul.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr JamBay 19 Aug (JGI, mob); JamBay 21-25 Aug (ACo, mob); second ind JamBay 25 Aug (TWB GB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 JamBay 9 Jul (ABa); max 6 HSP 11 Aug (MSch).
Dunlin: sev summered Moriches In, as usual; alt JamBay 24-26 Aug.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: alt m CCP 14 Jun, PB 15-18 Jun (MMcB, mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr JamBay 8 Jul (ABa); 23 JamBay 13 Jul (ABa); max 85 JamBay 5 Aug (ABa); HSP 18 Aug (JT); first juvs 2 JamBay 19 Aug.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Riv sod farms 18 Aug (SSM, PJL); ad HSP 20 Aug (DR), rarely seen plumage; Eastport sod farms 23-27 Aug (RF et al); 2-3 Riv sod farms 26 Aug; JamBay E, Pd 27 Aug (ACo); Bergen Pt Golf Course, Babylon, SUFF 30 Aug (S Jannazzo).

RUFF: four inds JamBay: molting black & white m 1-6 Jul (ABa, HL, mob, ph); rufous m 4-23 Jul (TWB, GB, SA, mob, ph); f 15-19 Jul (ABa); drab m or f 2 Aug (DR).

Short-billed Dowitcher: first sb 30 Jun CCP & JamBay (MMcB; ABa); 143 JamBay 2 Jul (ABa); 3000-3500 JamBay 13 Jul (ABa); 300 CCP 14 Jul (RBA); 300 JBWE 2 Aug (BF);

down to 500 JamBay 7 Aug (ABa); v few juvs, **Long-billed Dowitcher:** JamBay 4 Jul; CCP 6 Jul (SSM, PJL); JamBay 13 Jul (ABa); JamBay 13 Jul (RJK); JamBay 26 Jul (RBA); 4 JamBay 1 Aug (ABa, HL, SWa); 2 JamBay 7 Aug (ABa); 2-3 JamBay to 17 Aug (RBA).

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 MB 3-4 Jun, one 5 Jun (HMcG, mob); 3 MB 8-10 Jun (mob); juv JamBay 30 Jul (S Blodgett); 2 JamBay 6 Aug (ACo); 3 (2 m, f) CCP 16 Aug (D Belanger); juv Flushing Meadow-Corona P, QUEE 27 Aug (KaM).

Red-necked Phalarope: MB 3-9 Jun (AnW, mob); JamBay 18 Aug (TWB, GB).

phalarope sp: pelagic 8-25 mi s Mtk 22 Jul (ACo), prob Red Phalarope.

Bonaparte's Gull: ad bas CCP 28 Jul (DR); CCP 18 Aug (SSM).

Black-headed Gull: ad JamBay 30 Jun (ABa).

Herring Gull: leucistic ad Breezy Pt, QUEE 17 Jun (AG), perhaps same ind as photographed here as subadult in 2010.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 19 imms JBSP 23 Jul (B Rossetti); many widespread reports of smaller numbers.

Glaucous Gull: 1S SPCP 21 Jun (RKA), 27 Jul (DR), 28 Jul, cont from spring.

Least Tern: 1S arr CCP 1 Jun (MMcB); ~25 pr. colony on Shelter I wiped out by raccoons (*fide* O Birol 22 Jun).

Gull-billed Tern: ads courtship-feeding & nest with egg NB 7-11 Jun, subsequently failed (J Zarudsky), many reps of 1-3 JamBay thru; alt CCP 28 Jun (SSM, DF, SWa, F Mantlik), farthest east; JBWE 15 Aug (M Goldstein).

Caspian Tern: PB 24 Jul (KF); JamBay 11 Aug (RBA); CCP 16 Aug (RBA); JamBay East Pd 22 Aug (ABa).

Black Tern: 2 RMSP 2 Jun, nb migr (mob).

intro; CCP 2 Jun (JGI, JCu); many reps 1-5 Moriches In thru end of July; 3 Napeague Harbor, SUFF 8 Jul (DR); first juv CCP 4 Aug (MMcB); max 77 CCP 18 Aug (PJL, SSM) & 106 MB 19 Aug (AnW).

Roseate Tern: 5 RMSP 2 Jun, migr (mob), *see intro*; ad NB 9 Jun (PPo); 4 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM); 2 MB 24 Jun (ACo); [CCP, PB, EH etc, as expected] 100 Plum Gut, SUFF 5 Jul (SSM, PJL), from Great Gull I population of approx. 1500 prs (JDi); 8 OPCP 14 Aug (MLL).

Common Tern: 400 NB 10 Jun (BBe); 170 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM), apparently migr; 1100+ PI 10 Aug, 1200 20 Aug, from Great Gull I population of approx 9500 prs.

ARCTIC TERN: 4 (2 ad-like, 2S, 1S) CCP 1 Jun (MMcB), ph; 6 (3 ad-like, 3 1S) CCP 2 Jun (mob), *intro*: 1S CCP 3 Jun (MMcB, MMcB Sr., JCu); 1S NB 9 Jun (PPo, ph); 1S CCP 16 Jun (SA, mob); 2S CCP 4 Jul (SSM, PJL).

Forster's Tern: 4 (1 ad, 2 2S, 1S) CCP 1 Jun (MMcB); RMSP 12 Jun (SSM).

Royal Tern: arr CCP 2 Jun; 2 JamBay 7 Jul (ABa, TWB, GB); 3 Crookes Pt, SI 9 Jul (CB); 17 CCP 24 Jul (KF); JamBay e pond 9 Aug (RBA); 43 PB 18 Aug (PJL, SSM); 76 Shinn 19 Aug (AnW).

SANDWICH TERN: MB 9 Jun (ABa, HL), ph; CCP 28 Jun (F Mantlik, SSM) & 2 there 29 Jun (SSM, PJL ABa), all ph; CCP 1 Jul (ACo), ph; CCP 6 Jul (S & MB Billerman).

Black Skimmer: 600+ NB 10 Jun (BBe);

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 26 miles south of Shinnecock Inlet 24 Jun (C. Witek), ph.

Pomarine Jaeger: 6 pelagic 35 s Mtk 19 Jun (ACo).

Parasitic Jaeger: 8 RMSP (mob), 15 Main B (mob), CCP evening seawatch 2 Jun (*see intro*); RMSP 12 Jun (SSM); 2 pelagic 35 s Mtk 19 Jun (ACo); 2 RMSP 29 Jul (JGI).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: ad RMSP 2 Jun, (mob); ad Main B (mob), poss same bird, *see intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 316 Eastport sod farms 24 Aug (C Starace).

Monk Parakeet: pr attempted nest near Armory, RICH 23 Jun (Eva Callahan).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Sandy Pd, Calverton 16 Aug (HMcG); JamBay 24 Aug (RB, PJL).

Barn Owl: Baiting Hollow, SUFF 10 Aug (D Taggart).

Great Horned Owl: PI 10 Aug (LI Birding), first for site.

Common Nighthawk: Peter Detmold P. NEWY 16 Aug (BC), first report; roosting in pines JBWE 19 Aug (BAnd); 2-3 Massapequa, SUFF 27 Aug (P Jones); 3 CLP 28 Aug (D Jordet); 18 Silver L. Reservoir, RICH 28 Aug (T & J White); 4 Malverne, NASS 29 Aug (SyS et al.); 12 Pleasant Plains, RICH 30 Aug (ACi); Northville 30 Aug (MLL).

Chuck-will's-widow:

Whip-poor-will: 4-5 calling Westhampton Dwarf Pine Plains, SUFF 5 Jun (JT); a "few" calling Mt. Sinai, SUFF 6 Jun (LI Birding); 4 Edgewood Pres DEC, SUFF 28 Jun (JT); Northville 23 & 27 Aug, calling (MLL).

Chimney Swift: 20 Bronx Community College, BRON 4 Aug (BC).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: ad f, 2 lg nestlings PP 18 Jun, cont. from spring (R Jett), rare breeder for NYC.

Red-headed Woodpecker: juv MLUA 26 Aug (M Shanley).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CRSPP 14 Jul (PJJ, A. Randolph); Kissena P, QUEE 21 Jul (J O'Sullivan); very rare LI in summer.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): NYBG 2 Jun & heard 10 Jun, cont from spring (D Becker).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CLP 17 Aug (CB); CHP 19 Aug (D Eib); JBWE 29 Aug (ABa); CP 29 Aug; PP 29 Aug; CLP 29 Aug (HF).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 20 Aug (StS); PP 20 Aug (PD); CLP 20 Aug (HF).

Acadian Flycatcher: PP 1, 8, 15, 16, 19 Jun, two 27 Jun, 29 Jun (PD); CP 20 Aug (StS).

Alder Flycatcher: CP 19 Aug (StS et al.).

Willow Flycatcher: sev reports w LI (Levittown, Dix Hills, Meadowbrook Pres) 1-2 Jun of birds singing near recharge basins or other freshwater sources away from salt marshes (GQ, B McGrath).

Eastern Phoebe: pr nesting Peconic Dunes Camp, Southold, SUFF 8 Jun, unus loc (G Tudor).

Eastern Kingbird: max 410 EP 17 Aug (MMcB), 1-hr count of morning flight.

Yellow-throated Vireo: APP 20 Jun (SWa), unus-rare for loc and date; m Northville yard early Jun, singing on territory to 17 Jun (MLL). **Philadelphia Vireo:** CP 21 & 29 Aug (StS); PP 24 Aug (PD).

COMMON RAVEN (R10): 2 Babylon, SUFF 20 & 31 Jul (T Dunn), vocalizing, PP 7 Aug (PD); E. Williston, NASS 9 Aug (BF).

Horned Lark: 4 (2 ads, 2 juvs) EPCAL 10 Jun (JGI).

Purple Martin: colony on Shelter I, SUFF 60% destroyed by raccoon(s) 20 Jun (O Birol); 5+ at martin houses Freeport 13 Jul (BBc), scarce breeder NASS; ~35 Wertheim NWR 27 Jul (DF, R Kelly); 7 PI 20 Aug.

Tree Swallow: 144 PB 25 Jul (SSM, PJJ), 2-hr count; 6,200+ PI 10 Aug (LI Birding), high count for survey; "100s" JBWE 30 Aug (DR).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 3 PB 25 Jul (SSM, PJJ), 2-hr count.

Bank Swallow: migr Great Gull I, SUFF 27 Jun (JDi); 152 PB 25 Jul (SSM, PJJ), 2-hr count.

Cliff Swallow: 2 ads Alley Pond Env Center, QUEE 17-20 Jul (S. Perrault), fd yng; 5 there 22 Jul (T. Lowery, ph), 2 ads & 3 juvs; v. rare breeder LI; 2 Tobay, NASS 14 Jul (BBc); 201 PB 25 Jul (SSM, PJJ), 2-hr count; 12 JBWE 30 Aug (DR).

Barn Swallow: 122 PI SUFF 20 Aug (LI Birding); 506 PB 25 Jul (SSM, PJJ), 2 hr count; '100s' JBWE 30 Aug (DR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: many early reports: CP 10 Jun (A Bondi, mob); 2 NYBG 23 Jun & 1 Jul; CRSPP 14 Jul (PJJ, A. Randolph); CemRes 8 Aug (ACi); Northville 17 Aug; CHP 19 Aug (R Veit); CP 20 Aug (StS); 2 Northville 23 Aug (MLL); Grymes Hill, RICH 23 Aug; 2 CLP 26 Aug (A Purcell); *intro*.

Brown Creeper: CRSPP 14 Jul (PJJ, A. Randolph), appropriate breeding habitat.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 10 CHP 19 Aug (R Veit).

Veery: nocturnal flight calls over Manhattan 24 Jul, 29 Aug (AF); BryP 30 Aug (AD); 12 CP 30 Aug (GW).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: BryP 5 Jun (GW).

Swainson's Thrush: BryP 1-5 Jun (BC, mob); NYBG 10 Jun (D Becker); CP 29 Aug (StS et al.); 4 CP 30 Aug (GW).

Hermit Thrush: NYBG 10 Jun (D Becker).

Wood Thrush: 2 CP 19 Aug (M Bryant, DF et al.).

Cedar Waxwing: max 75 PP 3 Aug (PD).

WARBLERS

Ovenbird: sev to one BryP 1-13 Jun (BC, mob).

Worm-eating Warbler: sing CP 1 Jul (D. Allen, mob); 2 Blydenburg P, Smithtown, SUFF 10 Aug (P Scully).

Louisiana Waterthrush: RPt DEC 19 Jul (RKA); CP 21 Jul (E Gaillard); CLP 21 Jul (D Jordet); CP 31 Jul (NS); Swindler Cove P, NEWY 17 Aug (BC).

Northern Waterthrush: BryP 1-16 Jun (BC, mob); PP 8 Jun (PD); CemRes 17 Jul (ACi); CP

25 Jul (E Gaillard); JamBay 25 Jul (RJK); BryP 26 Jul (BC); 5 PP 27 Jul (PD); CP 31 Jul (NS); 12 EP 22 Aug (MMcB).

Golden-winged Warbler: imm f CemRes 18 Aug (ACi, ph); PP 19-20 & 25 Aug, two there 26 Aug (PD); RPt DEC 23 Aug (TR, ph); 2 (m, f) PP 29 Aug.

"Brewster's Warbler" (Golden-winged Warbler x Blue-winged Warbler hybrid): PP 16-18 Aug (PD).

Black-and-white Warbler: CRSPP 14 Jul (PjL, A Randolph), becoming scarce as breeders on LI.

Prothonotary Warbler: MLUA 7 Jun, singing (ACi); Hidden Pond, Hauppauge, SUFF 13 Aug (TR, ph); RPt DEC 25 Aug (TR); PP 25 Aug (PD).

Tennessee Warbler: JamBay 24 Aug (PjL, RB).

Mourning Warbler: m BryP 3-4 Jun (B Kow, C Man, mob); BryP 11-16 Jun, same ind?; JamBay 18 Aug (TWB, GB); 2 CP 19 Aug, M Bryant, DF, et al. ; ad Riverside P, NEWY 29 Aug (TF); 2 JBWE 30 Aug (DR); imm BryP 30 Aug (AD).

Kentucky Warbler: RPt DEC 14-28 Jun, 16 Jul, 15 Aug (RKA, mob), likely bred; PP 13 Aug (PD); m CLP 20 Aug (HF); CP 25, 29 Aug (*fide* TF).

Hooded Warbler: 2 m Muttontown Pres, NASS 3 Jun, sing (J Osterlund); m SMSP 4 Jun, sing; f Calverton Ponds Pres (KF, SF).

American Redstart: ca. 100 JamBay 24 Aug (PjL, RB).

Cape May Warbler: imm f JBWE 19 Aug (BAnd, ph); PP 19-20 Aug (PD; RB).

Cerulean Warbler: PP 7 Aug (PD).

Northern Parula: EP 14 Aug (MMcB).

Magnolia Warbler: EP 14 Aug (MMcB).

Bay-breasted Warbler: PP 29 Aug (PD)

Yellow Warbler: 75-100 JamBay 24 Aug (PjL, RB).

Blackpoll Warbler: f BryP 1 Jun (BC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: PP 27 Jun (PD).

Palm Warbler: arr RMSP 30 Aug, early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: alt CLP 31 Aug (HF), early.

Yellow-throated Warbler: s CRSPP 7 Jun (J Quinlan) & 2 foraging together 10 Jun (B&E Wilson), cont from spring; PP 29 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: PP 22 Jul (PD); APP 24 Aug (ABa, E Miller); RPt DEC 2 Aug (RKA).

Wilson's Warbler: BryP 7-15 Jun (BC, mob).

Yellow-breasted Chat: fall arr CVP 18 Aug (AIW), Balwin, NASS yard 18 Aug (SyS); 7 other widespread reports 19-30 Aug.

TOWHEES-WEAVERS

Vesper Sparrow: bred at Gabreski Airport, SUFF; one add'l report from nearby grasslands, apparently last stronghold on LI.

Lark Sparrow: 2 JFK Airport 3 Aug (S Beffre), trapped; early; JBWE 9-12 Aug (BAnd, mob), only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: PI 1 Jun (LIBirding); good numbers nesting at EPCAL, i.e., 16 10 Jun, inc. 2 carrying food (JGI).

White-throated Sparrow: BryP one-sev to 3 Jul, (BC, mob), one *singing* there on 23 Jun and 3 Jul; last CP 5 Jul (P Scully); BryP 30 Aug (AD), first fall report.

Dark-eyed Junco: m CemRes, singing, 11 Jun (ACi), unus date.

Summer Tanager: pr EH 24 Jun (ACo), where bred prev years.

Scarlet Tanager: 2, nocturnal calls over Manhattan 29 Aug (AF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CP 29 Aug (StS et al.), FOS here.

Blue Grosbeak: pr Calverton 16-18 Jun (M Lotito); m North Fork Pres, SUFF 16 Jun (C Starace); pr CVP 14 Jul & nest with chick 18 Jul; nest destroyed 21 Jul (AIW), *intro.*; sb arr RMSP 29 Aug (M Normandia, J Quinlan).

Dickcissel: arr JBWE (S Schellenger) & EP (MMcB) 14 Aug; 2 RMSP 30 Aug; JBWE 31 Aug (BAnd).

Bobolink: sb migr CemRes 23 Jul (ACi); max 302 EP 22 Aug (MMcB).

Eastern Meadowlark: 15 EPCAL 24 Jun (SSM, PjL et al.).

Orchard Oriole: 5 migr JBWE 30 Aug (DR).

Baltimore Oriole: many migr RMSP, JBWE 29, 30 Aug.

Purple Finch: HY CLP 16 Aug (HF), very early; modest diurnal flight Riverside P, NEWY 29 Aug (TF); CLP 29 Aug.

Red Crossbill: 12 CP 31 Aug (J Drucker, A Peltomaa, mob), Type 3 calls confirmed; very unusual date.

EXOTICS

Chestnut-bellied Seed-finch: CP 30 Jul (D. Allen), ph.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; *intro* – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

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